



Human Services Commission
Meeting Summary
Monday, April, 2014, 6:30-8:30 pm

Members Present: Jason Dick, Kellen Baker, Lynn Fleshman, Valerie Bays, Steve Daschle

Guests: Arthur Sullivan, A Regional Coalition for Housing

Staff Present: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

March Meeting Summary: Approved

Guest Presentation:

Long Term Winter Shelter Update

Arthur discussed the future plans for a low-barrier winter shelter for both men and women. The goal is to locate a shelter or shelters permanently to avoid having to site them sometimes at the last minute, in not the most optimal locations.

Reviewed the proposal that was presented to Eastside mayors last week, highlighting the move from severe weather shelter to temporary winter shelter to dedicated space(s) for winter and year round shelter.

Over the last year and a half the Committee to End Homelessness has come to realize that there are still people in the streets that need shelter. Therefore existing capital as well as operating funding can be used for this purpose.

Of the 14 cities in ARCH, only a few currently fund shelter. ARCH is working with each to raise awareness and secure commitments. After review by the Redmond Human Services Commission, it will go to the Council's Parks and Human Services Committee, then the full Council for discussion. Some issues raised by the mayors were siting, budget, and moving people on to housing.

Question from Commission if funding winter shelter would push aside other projects or priorities. Existing projects already in the pipeline would go forward.

The Commission agrees that this is a good idea and is in full support of the plan. They recommend that ARCH also consider talking to the following groups even before a site has been identified: OneRedmond, The Landing's business neighbors, Hopelink's Eastside Leadership Council.

Updates from Commissioners:

- No one was able to attend the commission appreciation event, but Lynn and Steve went to the Treehouse event.

Staff updates

- The Coordinator for the Neighborhood School House program has left and the assistant is filling in until a replacement is hired.
- More new agencies seem interested in applying for funding this cycle than previously.
- Staff met with HealthPoint to try to understand the effect of ACA on funding needs. There is still a need to support uncompensated care. Basically no one knows how ACA will play out yet.

New Business:

Rating Tool and Review Process

The soonest a new commissioner could come on board is June. Discussed if they would participate fully in the rating of applications or just observe and learn. Group decided that it would depend on the individual chosen.

Discussed the purpose of rating applications. Do we put them all in order and fund above a certain line? Last cycle, the commission rated first, then looked at the available money. Group wonders if they should think about both simultaneously.

Applications will be rated by category (basic needs, domestic violence, supportive relationships, etc.) One idea is to do a rating and also overlay other issues like prevention, cultural, or education. We should keep a rating for need by refine it by considering how much of the need is being met by the program, and how much is the application uniquely meeting the need?

Agreement that the budget questions were not as useful last time. Diversity in funding is important, as is leveraging. Question if accessibility is one of the overlays instead of part of the rating? All commissioners will review all applications. Agreement that the numerical rating is just the starting point for conversation.

Staff will get rating materials to commission by May 1. Commissioners will rate 5 applications on 5/12.

Funding for School-Based Support

Staff have met with organizations about potential family support services at Einstein Elementary, currently the highest needs school in Redmond. They would like the commission to consider holding back some funds from the regular funding cycle in order to pilot these services. This would give additional time to also meet with the school, district, and foundation to see if there may be resources they can add. Commissioners agree and also suggest approaching the Redmond Foundation.