

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 22, 2013**

Present

Councilor Mike Beilstein, Chair
Councilor Penny York
Councilor Bruce Sorte

Staff

Jim Patterson, City Manager
Ken Gibb, Community Development Director
Marci Laurent, Community Development Mgt Ass't
Carla Holzworth, City Manager's Office

Visitors

Jennifer Moore, United Way
Stewart Wershow, Community Policing Forum

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Information Only</u> | <u>Held for Further Review</u> | <u>Recommendations</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| I. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Social Services Policy Review, Funding Priorities, and Allocation Calendar | | | Retain social service priorities as emergency and transitional, and approve the proposed calendar with the 2012 date correction. Adopt policy revisions as discussed accept staff changes with the following two exceptions: * Retain the word "stable" in 6.05.040a * Add the words "mental and physical" to 6.05.050a (8) to read "...acute mental and physical health care..." |
| II. Other Business | | | |

Chair Beilstein called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Social Services Policy Review, Funding Priorities, and Allocation Calendar (Attachment)

Chair Beilstein noted the social service process is reviewed annually. He supports re-affirming funding priorities as emergency and transitional services. Councilors York and Sorte agreed.

Chair Beilstein said he agrees with the allocations process calendar as recommended by staff, but noted the year 2012 in the table header should be 2013; staff will correct the error. Mr. Gibb said the proposed calendar is an updated version of what was distributed in the January 8, 2013 Human Services Committee packet. It assumes

Council will make a decision at their February 4 meeting, with request for proposal packets being available to agencies on February 11.

The Committee unanimously recommends that Council retain social service priorities as emergency and transitional, and approve the proposed calendar with the 2012 date correction.

Chair Beilstein said staff's suggested policy amendments are located in the January 8, 2013 Human Services Committee meeting packet. He said in the absence of proposed changes from Councilors York and Sorte, he will support the suggested revisions.

Councilor Sorte said due to the water main break on Saturday, he was not able to work on proposed policy revisions as he had planned. He said he was initially concerned about whether declining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars were the result of funding being diverted for another purpose. Discussions with Mr. Gibb revealed that while the dollar amount has declined, the percentages have not changed. Councilor Sorte estimated that \$500,000 in social service funding could be obtained if every Corvallis household gave up one cup of coffee at Starbucks each month. He said he believes the annual allocation process is fair, but he expressed concern about having a contractor (United Way) in between the agencies and the City, which adds an extra step to the process. Councilor Sorte noted the Mayor usually appoints those who work with staff to make recommendations.

Councilor Sorte said he supports establishing a "not to exceed" reduction in funding, perhaps no more than 10%. He also would like Council to discuss establishing a funding floor, perhaps 1% of the General Fund budget, with allocation based on the number of households or taxpayers. He opined Corvallis' allocation seems reasonable compared with other communities.

In response to Councilor York's inquiry, Councilor Sorte said his 1.4% calculation of the Fiscal Year 2012-13 social services funding level was based on last year's General Fund budget. In response to Councilor Sorte's request for confirmation of that estimate, Mr. Patterson said it may be a little high, but he believes it is close.

Councilor York said she has experience working for non-profits and agencies certainly want stable funding. She believes social services are important and she appreciates the work done by United Way, but she does not support establishing a floor amount. Councilor York said it is important to consider the City's other expenses and its revenues. She expressed confidence some level of social service funding would be included in the budget and she agreed with staff's proposed policy language in 6.05.040 Funding Source.

In response to Chair Beilstein's inquiry, Councilor Sorte said his 1.4% estimate does not include CDBG funds. He commented that Councilors have mentioned that establishment of a fixed funding amount could tie Council's hands, but he believes it may actually provide more flexibility. Councilor Sorte said social services agencies approaching Council individually for funding is not fair to other agencies. Chair Beilstein said the addition of 6.05.040b was to discourage such individual requests.

Chair Beilstein said he is sympathetic to Councilor Sorte's point about minimal funding and he supports having some level of funding for social services, but he is not sure he supports establishing a floor. Chair Beilstein recognized that providing social services is not a City function, but the City pays others to provide those services because they are currently deemed important. However, it could eventually be decided that money is not available to fund non-City services.

City Manager Patterson noted Council's consideration of new revenue sources which do not compromise the social service budget provides an opportunity to communicate that the City values social services.

Chair Beilstein said in the absence of specific language modifications from the Councilors York and Sorte, he supports staff's proposed policy changes. In response to Councilor Sorte's inquiry, Chair Beilstein said he does not support establishing a maximum reduction.

Councilor Sorte said he would like to retain the word "stable" in 6.05.040a rather than removing it as recommended by staff; Councilor York and Chair Beilstein agreed. The Committee then reviewed each of staff's recommended changes.

The Committee unanimously recommends that Council adopt policy revisions as discussed accept staff changes with the following two exceptions:

1. Retain the word "stable" in 6.05.040a
2. Add the words "mental and physical" to 6.05.050a (8) to read "...*acute mental and physical health care...*"

Councilor Sorte said he will provide examples of base level funding at the February 4 City Council meeting.

Mr. Gibb noted discussion at the previous Human Services Committee meeting about the ordinance that was in place in the mid-1970s. The ordinance set funding at \$100,000 per year with a 6% maximum annual increase and a \$150,000 ceiling. The increase was tied to federal revenue sharing dollars that were available at that time. The ordinance became void when the revenue sharing dollars went away, but it is still

on the books. Mr. Gibb said he discussed the matter with the City Attorneys' Office and it would be good practice to remove the ordinance during the next round of Municipal Code updates. Chair Beilstein thanked staff for their work.

In response to Chair Beilstein's inquiry, Ms. Moore said the allocation requests only represent emergency and transitional needs. They are not representative of entire community needs.

In response to Mr. Patterson's inquiry, Ms. Moore said the drop in total funding requests relates to agencies knowing less money would be available. She expects requests will be about the same as last year.

Mr. Gibb said due to the City's levy, there is an established social services funding floor of \$106,000 for the current year. However, the levy will expire next year unless it is renewed.

In response to Councilor York's observation about differing levels of sophistication in how agencies request funds, Ms. Moore agreed there are a variety of ways to determine funding needs and the current process works well to sort those out.

Chair Beilstein noted Councilor York has been assigned as the Council liaison to this year's Allocations Committee.

II. Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm Tuesday, February 5, 2013 in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Beilstein, Chair