



MEETING MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:00 PM

Social Services Committee

Members Present: Councilmember Reid, Councilmember Burns, D. Cravens, S. Olds Frey, A. Ngola, D. Ohanian, A. Sood

Members Absent: S. Lackey

Staff: S. Flax, J. Wingader

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Olds Frey called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Suspension of Rules

Mr. Ohanian moved approval, seconded by Ms. Sood; a roll call vote was taken and the rules to suspend to allow for virtual participation were approved 6-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2021

Councilmember Reid moved approval of the meeting minutes for October 14, 2021, seconded by Mr. Ohanian; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Support Services Discussion

Staff provided a review of the steps taken to research support services including information gathered from other City staff/departments, agencies applying for FY2021 funding, and other community partners working with vulnerable populations; Chair Olds Frey then opened discussion. There was discussion about the fee for service model and how it could impact revenue streams for providers that accept Medicaid and other types of insurance. Chair Olds Frey provided information about Medicaid eligible services and the rules around payment/reimbursement; highlighting challenges of payments following individuals as opposed to grants to support staff and services. There was discussion about structuring reporting around hours served and ways to get people into services rapidly. There was discussion about services covered by Medicaid, the challenges to enroll participants and the challenges agencies face when seeking reimbursement. The Committee reviewed federal income guidelines to better understand the targeted population. Chair Olds Frey was able to confirm federal poverty levels for individuals and families; she also confirmed that the biggest challenge Medicaid eligible households faced was the enrollment process.

Members considered participant barriers including long waiting lists and the lack of representation for BIPOC populations; there was also discussion about the challenges providers face including the difficulties of working with certain insurance plans, large caseloads, and administrative burdens and whether City funding could alleviate any barriers to services.

Staff reviewed applicants not classified as case management or safety net, including the services those agencies provide and asked the Committee for direction as to the best application of support services. Committee members spoke in support of focusing resources on mental health needs. There was discussion about the additional applicants and the services provided and discussion about ways to use support service funds to expand counseling services. Councilmember Burns reiterated the importance of working to quantify the population to be served; staff confirmed that more information would come from agencies offering case management services and committee members discussed various ways to expand mental health services. Staff confirmed that partnerships with additional providers could also be explored and Chair Olds Frey summarized the options discussed. Staff confirmed that mental health services would be the focus of support service funding and next steps include working with designated Case Management agencies to quantify the number of participants in need of additional mental health services, understand financial barriers to getting people into those services and report back on ways City funding could help address financial barriers.

2022 Meeting Dates

Members discussed a change to the proposed meeting time; there was interest in meeting earlier provided meetings were held virtually. Members agreed to change the meeting time for December to 6:30pm and approved meeting dates for 2022. Mr. Ohanian moved approval, seconded by Councilmember Reid; a roll call vote was taken and the motion approved 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist