



MEETING MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 10, 2022 7:00 PM

Social Services Committee

Members Present: S. Olds Frey, D. Ohanian, A. Ngola, S. Lackey, K. Hayes, Councilmember Burns

Members Absent: A. Sood, Councilmember Reid

Staff: S. Flax, M. Johnson, J. Wingader

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

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

Suspension of the Rules

Vice Chair Ohanian moved approval to suspend rules to allow for participation electronically or by phone, seconded by Ms. Lackey; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2022

Ms. Ngola moved approval of the meeting minutes for September 22, 2022, seconded by Vice Chair Ohanian; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Discussion and Vote to Recommend Approval to City Council Mental Health Service Provider(s) for Participants Referred by Holistic Case Managers/City Staff and Program Budget for FY 2023 and FY 2024

Members invited applicants to provide a brief synopsis of services and address questions, specifically about staff diversity, types of insurance accepted, and transition plans for participants once City support ends. The following people spoke on behalf of their agencies: Susan Resko for Josselyn Center, Jennifer Michel for Metropolitan Family Services, Chris Knoper for Impact Behavioral Health Partners, David Klow for Skylight Counseling Center, Taejah Vemuri for Urban Balance, Sarah Laing for Open Studio Project, and Tina Cortez for Turning Point.

There was initial discussion about the number of individual sessions the program should provide budget for individual sessions and the number of sessions individuals would receive through the program, group sessions and use of funds to provide additional support, including food and childcare, for sessions targeting parents, and the way support service funds would continue to support the program. Staff agreed that funds could transfer between group and individual services based on participant needs and that regular program and budget updates would be provided to the Committee for

review. Ms. Hayes moved approval of provision of up to ten individual sessions seconded by Ms. Lackey; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Chair Olds Frey called for a motion to discuss applicants; Vice Chair Ohanian moved approval of applicants seconded by Ms. Hayes. There was initial discussion about the referral process and how participants would be connected to providers, there was also discussion about the needs of populations receiving services. There was further discussion about information provided to applicants and Committee members. Members agreed that working with providers that could offer a wide scope of services to broad populations would be most effective in serving the many different target populations. Members and staff discussed how the program would be evaluated and how it could be modified based on feedback from those engaged in services.

Members also discussed the recommended budgets and how funds could be divided, the number of providers that should be engaged, and staff capacity. Councilmember Burns noted that new participants should be engaged in services. There was further discussion about the diversity of services needed and key criteria including engaging practitioners that have a diverse staff and accept medicaid. There was additional discussion about how the program would be reviewed. Staff agreed to provide monthly updates after initiating services. Staff reviewed how the program would receive ongoing funding and initial budgets. Chair Olds Frey confirmed the motion to develop service agreements with Josselyn Center, Skylight Counseling Services, and Metropolitan Family Services to provide individual, family and group counseling services moved by Councilmember Burns and seconded by Ms. Ngola; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Discussion and Vote to Recommend Approval to City Council Allocation of \$60,400 of CARES Act (CDBG-CV) Funds for Health Staff Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Members reviewed the proposal to use CDBG-CV funds to support a full-time Case Investigator, a part-time Communicable Disease Liaison to High Risk Populations, a part-time Public Health Data Analyst, and a contract Vaccination Consultant; positions would be filled from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. All positions are critical to the City's response to and ongoing monitoring of COVID-19. Councilmember Burns moved approval to recommend to City Council allocation of \$60,400 in CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds to support health staff as defined, seconded by Ms. Ngola; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Discussion and Vote to Recommend Approval to City Council Allocation of \$190,000 of CARES Act (CDBG-CV) Funds to Support Ongoing Needs for Food, Staff and Safety Protocols to Prevent, Prepare for and Respond to COVID-19

Members reviewed the proposal to allocate \$190,000 in CDBG-CV funds for food, staff support and safety protocols; Connections for the Homeless requested \$150,000 for food and to support staff distributing it and Interfaith Action requested \$40,000, for food, cleaning supplies and services, and air purifiers. Ms. Ngola moved approval seconded by Ms. Lackey, a voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Vote to Approve Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Hayes moved to elect Chair Olds Frey and Vice Chair Ohanian to serve a second term, seconded by Ms. Ngola; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

Staff Report

Staff announced the beginning of the public comment period for the Draft 2023 Action Plan which outlines how the City's estimated 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, along with program income and unspent CDBG funds from prior years, will be used to improve the quality of life primarily for low and moderate income Evanston residents. Comments can be submitted via email, by phone or in person at the public meeting of the Housing & Community Development Committee held Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Staff also outlined applications for FY2023 Case Management and Safety Net Services which will be reviewed at the meeting in December.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist