



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:00 PM

**Social Services Committee**

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Reid, A. Sood

Staff: M. Johnson, J. Wingader

**Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum**

Chair Olds Frey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Suspension of the Rules**

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2022**

Mr. Rolling moved approval of the meeting minutes for December 9, 2022, seconded by Vice Chair Ohanian; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Funding Guidelines for FY2023 Public Services**

Guidelines provided for consideration

**FY2023 Case Management & Safety Net Services Allocation Recommendations**

Chair Olds Frey introduced the discussion and outlined her process for allocating funds followed by Mr. Rolling, who also asked about additional funds. Staff outlined funding sources, allocation guidelines per category and presented the allocation averages. Ms. Ngola outlined her process; all spoke in support of the agencies, the vital services provided, and the challenges of not having enough funds to fulfill all requests. Ms. Hayes moved approval of the allocations to initiate further discussion.

There was discussion about new requests, impact of funding, and additional sources, including City funds; members expressed strong interest in supporting all applicants. Members agreed that reviewing the percentage of allocation to application budget would be a beneficial way to review Safety Net service allocations. Requests under 10% of budget were reduced by 10% while requests over 10% of budget were reduced by 20%; allocations were rounded to the nearest thousand. There was additional discussion about allocations and attempts to adjust allocations to more closely adhere to category estimates. There was also discussion about the timeline to finalize allocations. Staff

suggested underfunding support services for 2023 and reviewing the amount available for Support Services once that program was eligible for renewal. Members acknowledged that this decision would reduce funding for Support Services and could lead to a reduction in services under that program. Chair Olds Frey called for additional comments and Ms. Lackey discussed the importance of funding agencies to keep them viable. Staff suggested the Committee hear comments from attendees.

Anne Brown with PEER Services commented on the discrepancies between budgets, some being program budgets while others are agency budgets; she noted the gap between the cost to her agency to provide services and the amount requested.

Liz Novak from Connections commented that the Youth Program was a program that was running in prior years.

Sarah Ricker from Thresholds talked about the challenge of serving all interested people requesting services given limited staff and limited funding.

Patrick Keenan-Devlin, Executive Director of the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, expressed disappointment that the discussion focused on allocations as a percentage of program budget and encouraged advocacy for additional funding.

Diana from Infant Welfare Society introduced herself and encouraged Committee members to review allocations based on past year awards

Marcus King from the Housing Authority of Cook County thanked the Committee and discussed the importance of services provided by Thresholds.

There was additional discussion about recommendations and the impact of smaller allocation amounts and Liz Novak provided additional information about the Youth Program. Ms Hayes reiterated the challenge of having limited funds to commit. Ms. Ngola pointed out that Connections Youth Program was receiving a disproportionate reduction to the request. There was discussion about reviewing all allocations. Vice Chair Ohanian suggested that a reassessment of allocations would dissent from the process established by the Committee, Chair Olds Frey agreed and pointed out that, given reductions, the choices would remain challenging. Members agreed to review the allocation process for future allocation cycles.

After no further discussion about the allocations, Chair Olds Frey called for a motion. Ms. Hayes moved approval, seconded by Ms. Lackey for Case Management allocations in the following amounts: \$46,500 to Connections for the Homeless Youth Program, \$77,500 to Family Focus, \$43,400 to the Housing Authority of Cook County, \$46,500 to Infant Welfare Society - Case Management, \$35,960 to Impact Behavioral Health Partners, and \$46,500 to the James B. Moran Center for a total allocation of \$296,360 to case management services. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-1; Ms. Ngola voted against and Councilmember Burns abstained.

Mr. Rolling moved approval, seconded by Vice Chair Ohanian, for Safety Net Services in the following amounts: \$40,950 to Books & Breakfast, \$44,100 to Childcare Network of Evanston for Learning Together and \$31,500 for Mental Health Services, \$94,500 to Connections for the Homeless, \$47,250 to Infant Welfare Society, \$47,250 to Interfaith Action, \$47,250 to James B. Moran Center, \$31,500 to Meals at Home, \$23,750 to North Shore Senior Center, \$99,500 to PEER Services, and \$35,000 to the YWCA Evanston/North Shore for a total allocation of \$512,450 for safety net services. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved 6-0, with Councilmember Burns abstaining.

**Staff Report**

Staff noted that there were no items for action for the meeting in February; the Committee would instead review the allocation process.

**Public Comment**

Allison Harned offered appreciation to members and spoke in support for additional funds for public services. for invited SSC members, agency representatives, and interested community members to the upcoming [Evanston Local Area Network](#) (LAN 40) meeting.

Carol Teske, Executive Director of Childcare Network of Evanston, thanked the Committee.

Pamela Staples from Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, thanked the Committee.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Wingader  
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist