



Approved

MEETING MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 9, 2023 7:00 PM

Social Services Committee

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Reid, K. Hayes, S. Lackey

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

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Olds Frey called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Suspension of the Rules

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2023

Mr. Rolling moved approval of the meeting minutes for January 19, 2023, seconded by Vice Chair Ohanian; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Application and Report Review Process for Case Management and Safety Net Services

Staff summarized the history of the staff/community engagement and legislative processes that shaped the new allocation process, objectives, and intended community impact goals for the three funding categories. The presentation also defined case management and safety net services metrics and information captured in application and report summaries provided by staff.

There was discussion about the goal of support services, to provide rapid access to counseling at no cost to participants, and how the community engagement process was also used to identify mental health as a needed service. There was further review of how holistic case management services work to help participants obtain additional community support services. Members also discussed safety net services; Chair Olds Frey requested staff provide a more robust analysis of performance measures for both categories. There was discussion about ways to present agency performance information. Staff presented templates that could be used for reporting information about case management and safety net services.

There was additional discussion about use of different review processes including the ZoomGrants score tool or a rubric, formation of working groups to review applications, and the ability to review applications across multiple meetings. Members talked about the importance of having a shared framework when reviewing services, potential inclusion of analysis from third party rating systems, and ways for members to share experience and areas of expertise to better analyze applications. Councilmember Burns spoke to the importance of incentivising strong outcomes, standardized reporting to best capture long-term community impact, and supporting agencies that may lack capacity to comply with recordkeeping requirements. Members also discussed ways to transparently evaluate services while avoiding misrepresenting or misinterpreting outcomes. Councilmember Burns spoke to the importance of standardized criteria and accurate communication of expectations.

Chair Olds Frey requested a working group to review criteria; many members expressed interest in participating and the Committee agreed to carry the discussion to the April agenda so that all could participate. Chair Olds Frey talked about the importance of defining priorities and standards to provide transparency to applicants; she suggested a one-page summary to help facilitate discussion, and encouraged members to send review suggestions to staff. Councilmember Burns also encouraged members to provide more feedback to staff. Staff agreed to send review information, including application and score questions, to the Committee for review. Councilmember Burns requested staff provide information about best practices and explore review tools used by other communities. Staff provided additional information about the timeframe for establishing the review process and measures for the two categories prior to the next application cycle. Members confirmed that metrics would be discussed at the April meeting which will be held virtually. Staff noted that the May meeting would be in person.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist