



DISCUSSION SUMMARY
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:00 PM

Social Services Committee

Members Present: S. Olds Frey, D. Ohanian, K. Rolling, K. Hayes

Members Absent: Councilmember Reid, Councilmember Burns, A. Ngola, S. Lackey

Staff Present: M. Johnson, J. Wingader

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Olds Frey called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm. No quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2023

No vote taken, no quorum present.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Discussion of Public Services Measures

Staff summarized the basic criteria used to assess case management and safety net services. There was discussion about information potentially excluded and bias in reporting; members asked about ways agencies solicited and incorporated client feedback in service delivery and how that information could be reflected in reporting. There was discussion about the way reports can be structured and common data points to include; the group also talked about ways to get unique program information and emergent community needs. There was discussion about ways to better understand depth of services and referral information; staff provided examples of past reports and noted challenges of specifying information across participants. There was also discussion about program versus agency budgets and the challenges some agencies have defining a budget that encompasses services under the new allocation categories; members talked about how standardized budget information is important when considering allocations. Staff noted the impact of changes to the funding model and reporting processes on agencies and how some agencies were pivoting to meet reporting demands. There was discussion about ways to evaluate budgets and standardization of budgets; members discussed the importance of reviewing program budgets and agency budgets. All agreed that it was important to provide stable funding to agencies and make the reporting and allocation process transparent.

Members also discussed the importance of providing common definitions for data points including contacts and referrals. Staff provided further information about criteria specific outcomes and ways of working through the reporting process with agencies. Mr. Rolling noted the burden reporting can put on agencies and challenges agencies face reporting to different funders; he noted that any reporting template needed to be flexible. Ms.

Hayes also noted the additional criteria of reviewing applications and services through an equity lens and the need for consistent data.

Members agreed that providing clear program measures and transparency prior to the application process and throughout the report review meetings would be critical to helping agencies understand allocation determinations. Members also recognized that the funds available to allocate are often insufficient to meet demand; all acknowledged the challenges of making allocation recommendations and the importance of the public process. As there was no quorum present, there was no action taken.

Staff Report

Staff provided information about upcoming meeting dates and agenda topics; staff also provided an update of agencies registered with Charity Navigator.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist