



HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

March 10, 2016- 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McGregor called the March 10, 2016 regular meeting of the Human Services Commission to order at 6:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joyce Bowling, Brian Lord, Josh Max, Fran McGregor, and Lesley Schlesinger

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leslie Hamada were excused.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Victoria Throm, Personnel & Sr. Human Services Planner

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CHAIR MCGREGOR APPROVED THE AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2016 AS PRESENTED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Hollianne Monson Program Manager for Volunteer Services, Catholic Community Services

Volunteer Services changed its name from Volunteer Chore Services; Hollianne is the new Program Manager and Kate Sims is the new Coordinator. Volunteer Services serves clients 65 and older with low income or disabled. The program provides a safety net to live independent life for those with no family or support system to stay at home.

Some of the most common requests are for transportation, household chores, yard work, simple repairs, and shopping. Sixteen clients were served in Covington the first quarter; mostly female and three veterans.

The biggest challenge for Volunteer Services has been funding since they will be losing \$14,000 from United Way. They are working at obtaining other grant funds. The increase in senior population over the next ten years is predicted to be 18-25%.

Hollianne explained their intake process to determine eligibility. They start with a phone screening, send an application to those who qualify, determine income eligibility for those 30%

below AMI, and then a home assessment to see what the needs are. The final step is to match them with a volunteer.

Rebecca Bowie Community Program Manager for Street Outreach, Auburn Youth Resources

In the past few months AYR has had many changes to their staff and goals for the future. A new Street Outreach team was hired and they come to Covington on a weekly basis, a new Executive Director replacing James Blanchard who retired, and several new positions to be filled soon. They have developed a 10-year strategic plan and received a grant to build a new shelter and resource center in 2018. AYR also has a new name which will they will begin to brand, called "Nexus Youth & Family". The meaning of nexus is "to connect".

Another major change has been to the Drop In Center which moved to a program based model providing more structure for the youth. Doors open from 9:30-11:30 for GED assistance, street yoga, art therapy, and includes a LGBT group. They typically serve 8-11 clients a day at the center. AYR holds a Teen Feed each Wednesday night.

Rebecca mentioned that the Street Outreach Team has had a difficult time finding and connecting with the homeless youth in Covington. Victoria will send her the contact information for Chief McCurdy and The Storehouse food bank so they can meet to discuss the issue of youth homelessness.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1. Update on Meeting with YWCA

Victoria and other human service planners from Burien, Auburn, Renton, Tukwila requested a meeting with the staff from YWCA due to our concern over the many staff changes at the Renton office. Those staff who attended from the YWCA were: Jeanice Hardy Regional Director (Seattle), Patricia Hayden Senior Director (Seattle), Doris O'Neal Program Manager (Renton), Okesia Phillips DV Advocate, and Debra Monroe Program Manager for Integrated Services.

Jeanice explained that they wanted to change to a coordinated

Item 2. Confirm Site Visits to HeadStart and Children's Therapy Center

Schedules for Children's Therapy and HeadStart programs were reviewed. CM McGregor and CM Lord preferred a Friday or Thursday afternoon and CM Max said he would check his school schedule and confirm. It was also suggested to wait until April so the new commissioners coming on-board would be able to attend as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 3. Report on Funder's Workshop for 2017-18 Funding Cycle

The funders workshop took place on March 3rd with over 90 people from a variety of non-profits in attendance. There were many new programs interested in applying for city funds. Victoria will be meeting with those who request assistance and she encouraged anyone new to meet with her first. Application closes on April 7th. Victoria will begin to review the required supplements to determine if they are eligible and then forward to the commission to begin reviewing.

Item 4. Farewell to Commissioners Bowling and Schlesinger

CM Schlesinger will be moving to Memphis for a new job and CM Bowling will be enjoying retirement and travel. Both of these commissioners will be missed greatly. Council held interviews March 8th and will make appointments for one student and three adult positions at the March 22nd meeting.

COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

- The City Clerk confirmed Tuesday, July 26, 2016 for the next joint human services commission/council meeting. The topic will be to update council on the funding application status.
- City Manager Regan Bolli asked for some feedback on the commissions' opinion on providing meeting reports to council. He wanted to know if they preferred monthly, quarterly, or none at all. In addition, was there anything they felt the city could do to make their interaction with council more effective or improve communications? The commissioners agreed that they didn't mind coming to report monthly because it gave them a face-to-face opportunity and personal connection with council. In addition, they felt it was important for the citizens who attend the council meetings to hear of their work. They also felt the interaction and communication had the right balance and appreciate that council is very open.

CM LORD MOVED AND CM SCHLESINGER SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:08 P.M. VOTE: 5:0. MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by:



Victoria Throm
Personnel & Human Services Analyst