



HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

October 10, 2013- 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ahmad called the October 10, 2013 regular meeting of the Human Services Commission to order at 6:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Haris Ahmad, Joyce Bowling, Leslie Hamada, Fran McGregor-Hollums

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lesley Schlesinger was excused. Mia McFarland, and John Woodcock were unexcused

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Victoria Throm, Personnel & Human Services Analyst

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CM MCGREGOR-HOLLUMS MOVED AND CM HAMADA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDES THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 AS WRITTEN. VOTE: 4-0. MOTION CARRIED.

GUEST PRESENTATION:

Nathan Phillips from South King Council of Human Services representing the Capacity Building Project.

The SKCHS started thirty years ago to provide mutual support for other non-profit organizations. In 2004 they began to address the need for more funding dollars in South King County. The Capacity Building Project started to provide technical assistance, consultation, and beef up the ability of non-profits to attract services. The Council was called to be the voice for SKC at a regional level. There are several initiatives that are getting national attention; such as the Road Map Project which strives to improve education from cradle to career.

As poverty levels increased in the suburban areas, the funding level has not kept up with the need. The rate has increased at a much greater rate; 68% in the suburbs compared to 14% in the urban area. Kent/Covington has increased 75%. The infrastructure has not been keeping up creating a problem of getting people to the services they need. A recent partnership has formed with Public Health and human services to provide access to services.

The Capacity Building Project was formed to help the SKC agencies with tech assistance, recruiting, building their Board, or consultation on grant writing. Nathan

recognizes that this agency is different as they do not provide direct services. Chair Ahmad requested that Nathan provide more narratives on personal success stories with the agencies. Nathan shared how he recently met with the Renton ministerial group who were interested in the homelessness initiative but didn't understand all the facets of the program. Nathan was able to provide an outline of all the various programs and the contact person. The group was very appreciative of his training and now has a good understanding of how to help. Another success story was the collaboration formed with the food banks in South King County which led to greater funding.

Colleen Starr Executive Director of Vine Maple Place

In 2000 nine churches who were concerned about homelessness purchased 8 duplex apartments and began the Vine Maple Place transitional housing for single parent families. In 2007 they purchased another 6 units on Witte Road and with volunteer labor and donations from the community businesses; they gutted the duplexes and completely remodeled each unit. Their mission is to break the cycle of homelessness. 95% of their clients are single mothers, 5% single fathers. Colleen stated that they are debt free and all funding comes from local churches, businesses, City of Maple Valley, and volunteers.

Their program incorporates employment counseling, school/training, financial literacy training, and case management to address their physical and mental health. A children's advocate works with the kids to ensure they have the medical care they need, provide tutoring, and getting the kids involved in sports.

In 2011 the Board began to look at ways to prevent single parents from falling in the pit of homelessness. As a result, the Stable Families program was launched with the goal to provide skills to keep the family in their home before they were evicted. The cost of helping families in transitional housing is \$40-50,000 per year, and only \$9,000 per year to keep them stable in the home they are in. They provide case management that addresses and provides the following:

- Employment specialist
- Financial coach
- Counseling
- Medication needed

Staff keeps outcomes and measurements and tracks families after six months. They have served nine families in Covington and 21 families in Maple Valley and Black Diamond. The commission encouraged Colleen to consider applying for funding in the next funding cycle.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1. Report on Site Visit to Maple Valley Food Bank

The commissioners shared how impressed they were with the changes in shopping style the food is using. CM Hamada noted it gives such dignity to the clients. CM McGregor-Hollums said it would be important for the new commissioners to visit The Storehouse as well.

Item 2. Report on the Mayor's Day of Concern Food Drive

CM Bowling and McGregor-Hollums both volunteered at the food drive and said even though it was a stormy day, the Safeway employees were very nice to allow them to be indoors. Victoria handed out a form comparing the pounds of food and cash donations over the past 5 years. This year was about the same as last year. CM McGregor-Hollums thought they turned in more cash donations than was listed so she spoke with Lila Henderson at the food bank. Lila explained their process and said sometimes the envelopes from each store may get counted in another store but she would double-check all the receipts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 3. Report on Suicide Prevention Class at Kentwood High School

Victoria attended the Teen Link suicide prevention presentation at Kentwood high school. Crisis Clinic staff Erik and Maddy were the presenters and Victoria said they did an incredible job of engaging the students in the process. The information covered warning signs to be aware of and most important, how to talk with someone who is suicidal. With high number of students who admit to thoughts of hurting themselves, the class is extremely valuable. This was held in the health classes for several days, reaching hundreds of students.

COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by:



Victoria Throm
Personnel & Human Services Analyst