



**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 13, 2014- 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ahmad called the February 13, 2014 regular meeting of the Human Services Commission to order at 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Haris Ahmad, Joyce Bowling, Leslie Hamada, Mia McFarland, Fran McGregor-Hollums, Lesley Schlesinger

MEMBERS ABSENT

CM Bowling was excused due to vacation
John Woodcock, unexcused

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Victoria Throm, Personnel & Human Services Analyst

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CM MCGREGOR-HOLLUMS MOVED AND CM SCHLESINGER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2014 AS WRITTEN. VOTE: 5-0. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Ahmad called for public comments to all visitors. There were no comments.

GUEST PRESENTATION:

Lorna Rufener & Linda Meyers Co-founders of the SE King County Coalition Against Trafficking (SEKCCAT)

Lorna was a Captain with the Kent Police for many years and always interested in reducing homelessness for youth. Following the Polaris Project which ranked Washington State as number one in the nation for human trafficking (HT), the coalition was formed with the goal to bring all other organizations and businesses together to increase awareness and educate the community. SEKCCAT is the largest HT organization in South King County which includes Black Diamond, Maple Valley, Kent, and Auburn.

Linda Meyers is a former educator for students in alternative schools. This was her first exposure to trafficking that was taking place right in the classroom. The school now offers a 3-day Deception Program training for 7-12th grade. They are looking for volunteers to become trainers. Auburn and Tahoma school districts are onboard or interested in this program.

Linda and Lorna mentioned they have a survey to rate awareness of HT and they will send to Victoria to share with the Commission members. Linda mentioned that the current trend indicates that gangs are competing and get paid to recruit girls. They have spotters in the schools that target vulnerable girls. The most common gangs are Mexican, African, and Russian. Girls are rarely walking the streets anymore; most of the trafficking happens on the internet or through Back Door ads.

SEKCCAT has developed handouts for parents on behaviors and signs to watch for with their daughters. The average age for girls being trafficking is now 12. Boys are being introduced to pornography by age 11. The group also provides handouts for city inspectors so they are aware of signs that may indicate human labor trafficking sights in homes or businesses.

Anthony Houston Clinical Programs Director & Michael Heinisch CEO Kent Youth & Family Services

Michael thanked the city and the Commission for the continued funding. He was happy to report that they opened four new HeadStart classrooms at Jenkins Creek Elementary. Mike introduced the new clinical program director, Anthony Houston who gave a work history and how his journey and training brought him back to the Seattle area.

Anthony has an extensive background with the behavior health model which combines substance abuse with cognitive therapy. He also is a strong believer in early intervention and prevention. He stated that due to the Affordable Care Act, they are required to have all files electronic so the agency is moving toward compliance. He is looking forward to working with Covington clients and they plan to continue to provide counseling in the human services office space.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1. Revise Human Services Rules of Procedures

In 2013 the commission revised the Absenteeism section of the Rules of Procedures. The Council discussed the issue and made a recommendation to all commissions to review and revise their own rules & procedure document as they felt needed. So Victoria recommended to the Commission to vote on their original revision which read:

9. ABSENTEEISM – *When any Commission member accumulates three (3) absences (excused or unexcused) in a twelve-month period, the Chairperson may recommend to the Mayor that such member be removed from the Commission. A member who is unable to attend a commission meeting will contact the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or city staff prior to the meeting.*

CM MCGREGOR MOVED AND CM HAMADA SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE 9. ABSENTEEISM PARAGRAPH IN CITY OF COVINGTON HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION RULES OF PROCEDURE. VOTE: 5-0. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 2. Review Human Services Application Rating Sheet

In preparation for the upcoming funding cycle, the commission reviewed the application rating sheet used in the last cycle. Commissioners Ahmad and McGregor agreed that the rating from 1-3 was much easier than the former 1-20 rating spread. No changes were requested. Victoria noted that some of the cities, especially the larger cities in the NE were going to require larger agencies to develop an emergency preparedness plan. After a brief discussion, this commission did not want to make this a requirement but the agencies could make a simple statement of their plans during an emergency. This could be to stay in operation or not if they were primarily a volunteer based organization.

Item 3. Review Human Services Year-End Goals and Outcomes Report

Commission members reviewed the list of annual goals and most performance measures exceeded the annual goal. In addition, the outcome reports were submitted for review. Victoria mentioned that Storehouse was able to conduct a survey to compile a good outcome report.

The final year-end report was the King County Housing Repair Program. These are Community Development Block Grant dollars that are taken off the top of the county pot and designated toward housing repair. Covington residents submitted nine applications; \$36,712 were spent and another \$26,892 were set aside for repairs once the homeowner completed the bid process. This is the highest amount of housing repair dollars for Covington in several years.

COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

March work calendar noted a site visit to Pediatric Interim Care Center. Victoria suggested this be moved to include the new commissioners coming in April. The Commission agreed it would be a good experience and was moved to April. They also will hold election of officers in March instead of April.

Victoria reminded the commission of the Joint Council meeting on March 25th at 6:00 p.m. and asked if they had any items to discuss in addition to the increase in funding. CM Hamada asked about how the addition of sports and recreation will affect the Human Services Commission. She also asked that staff prepare a chart showing 10 years of funding level, population changes, one-night count data, and Kent school district data to show to Council to validate the increase in funding.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by:



Victoria Throm
Personnel & Human Services Analyst