



General Government & Social Services Committee

April 12, 2022

Summary and Motions

Committee chair, Council Member Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee members Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Council Members Richard Moloney, James Brown, Hannah LeGris, Liz Sheehan, Fred Brown, Whitney Baxter, Jennifer Reynolds, Kathy Plomin, and David Kloiber attended the meeting.

I. Approval of March 8, 2022 Committee Summary

A motion by Hannah LeGris to Approve March 8, 2022 Committee Summary, seconded by Jennifer Reynolds, the motion passed without dissent.

II. Language Access

Jennifer Reynolds provided an introduction and thanked all of the individuals involved in working on this item. Jennifer Sutton, Council Research Analyst, shared that this item has been a focus of the 11th Districts office since 2019. She spoke about potential improvements and said much of this was brought to the forefront because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also spoke about the requirements of Title VI and how Lexington implements those requirements. The goals of this item was to include website translation options, increase tools for first responders, develop a Crisis Communication Plan with Emergency Management and the Administration, as well as explore pay increases for multilingual employees.

Currently, translated material on Lexington's website is not easily available. Through discussions with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and further research, they discovered a program that allows for a plug-in on the website. The proposed web translation service would work in conjunction with LFUCG's current web platform, Druple. It would translate the entire website in up to 94 different languages for \$28,500. Additionally, she recommended that DEM, Global Lex, PIO, and Mayor's Office work together to create a Crisis Communication Plan. She further shared that First Responders have access to interpreters, language cards, and an ASL Video. The CAO's office is currently working to appoint Title VI Liaisons for both the Police Department and Fire Department. Sutton also explained that they will revisit increased pay options for bilingual or multilingual employees after the Compensation Study has been concluded. Currently, there is a way to request increase pay for multilingual employees, but this must be completed when an employee is brought on board.

Liz Sheehan asked if the cost of the website translation program includes maintenance. Aldona Valicenti said it includes the software, implementation plan, and support costs. Susan Lamb said that she would like to see a presentation on the website modifications once it is implemented.

III. NAMI Update

John Tackett, Fayette District Court Judge, presented on the Fayette County Mental Health Treatment Court (FMHC). This is a criminal diversion court that was started in 2014 with the help of LFUCG and the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. COVID-19 interrupted their ability to serve individuals. The pandemic created limitations to visitation at the Fayette County Detention Center that resulted in time constraints on contact with inmates. It also lowered capacity and delays in processing times for treatment centers as well as causing significant delays in the judicial process.

To overcome some of these challenges, they increased photo contacts, increased virtual and hybrid options, as well as other strategies. This would not have been possible without the grant that they received last year.

Tackett introduced Jennifer Van Ort Hazard who shared outcomes from FCMC. She shared that 31% of their participants enter the program defined as homeless, however one year after their start date, 97% are housed. 59% of program participants have achieved sobriety from one year in the program. 100% of their 45 graduates are involved in one or more activities in their community. Recidivism with the aftercare program since its inception is 7%. This aftercare program addressed many things that graduates from the program need (i.e. support in recovery, connection, relapse prevention, fun and sober activities). This program is called the PALS (Participation, Alliance, Legacy and Service). This program has only been active since October or November. They look forward to sharing the data at a later date as they are tracking this information.

Van Ort Hazard shared that the FCDC savings are roughly \$4.2 million and the Law Enforcement savings are roughly \$2.3 million. The return on investment from the FCDC is 891% and for Law Enforcement is 303%. For FCDC and the Lexington Police Department is 1194%. At the State level, they are training other communities to implement similar programs.

Richard Moloney asked how many clients they have. Van Ort Hazard shared they have served 127 individuals. Kathy Plomin asked how the activities are monitored. Van Ort Hazard said they do work visits, home visits, visits with family members and with others in their support group. If they are struggling with employment, FCDC will connect them with employment specialists in the community. James Brown asked if the funds from CDBG or ARPA put any barriers or challenges onto their services. Van Ort Hazard said one of the biggest hurdles have been the administrative duties and the reporting.

John Tackett wanted to highlight that he was aware of the opioid settlement funds. There are programs that FCMC does not have locally that participants of the program could benefit from. Additionally, scholarship programs are needed to help with insurance issues that may be preventing people from getting treatment. Susan Lamb shared that information is still forthcoming on the opioid settlement funds but this group needs to be connected with the information.

IV. Lexington History Museum

Timothy Burcham gave an overview of the history of the Lexington History Museum. This relationship has been intertwined since 1997. In a memorandum of understanding between LFUCG and the state, LFUCG was to commit \$1 million to the Lexington History Museum in the old court house. The Lexington History Museum was officially chartered in 1998 and is a creation of the city. From 2003-2012, the museum was in the old Fayette County Court House. During that time, it hosted more than 10,000 visitors. It was closed in 2012 due to structural issues. The result is that it has made it more difficult for them to fundraise, they have had a loss of professional staff and it has eliminated tourist traffic. They have had various places where they have set up pocket parks, hosted virtual exhibits, maintained WikiLex, and have written several publications.

Currently, the Adam Rankin House houses the museum but the space is not large enough for the entire collection. Most of the collection remains in storage. In 2021, they engaged in an extensive strategic planning process and the plan focuses on four areas: preservation, partnerships, programming, and

presence. They have aspirations to be a fixed element of the community, similar to other cities, and have a funding mechanism. The future location would ideally be within walking distance from downtown hotels, have high tourism visibility, visitor parking, school bus entry/exit, school bus parking, and affordability. In the short-term, they are requesting funding for management support and a temporary museum location. Therefore, they are requesting \$1.6 million over the period of three years.

Plomin asked how many artifacts the museum owned. Foster Ockerman said that they are approaching 300 boxes of barely catalogued material that is in storage. They recently acquired the John Mayer Photography Collection which has over 1000 images. LeGris asked if they had or are going to pursue partnerships with other nonprofits. Burcham said that they are looking at partnerships with other nonprofits where they may have available space. Additionally, they are looking at the potential of city property that is under-utilized. Fred Brown asked about the possibility of the museum raising 50% of the \$1.5 million. Burcham said that without a clear plan and without the staff, it was hard to imagine how to mount a massive fundraising effort. From this point forward they hope to rebuild their fundraising capacity, but without fulltime staff, it will be difficult to raise the money. F. Brown would like to keep this item in committee and to have a task force to address this further.

Susan Lamb stated that she has the intention to bring this into the budget stabilization conversation. She also said that the \$1 million commitment from 1997 was fulfilled. J. Brown brought up how some community members want to know where they can find their neighborhood history, African American history, and Lexington's history in general. Burcham spoke about the Lexington History Collective and one of the goals is to pull together all of Lexington's History. Moloney invited the Lexington History Museum to apply for the ARPA nonprofit capital grants that will be forthcoming. Lamb wanted to give them an opportunity to talk about LexTalks, which is a series events and is one of their longest running outreach programs. After COVID, they started up again in February of 2022. Their most recent event covered the renaming of Tandy Park and was attended by 40-50 virtual participants. The next event will be on May 10th and cover the Kentucky Theater and the Lyric Theater. They plan to host three more events this year.

V. CivicLex Public Engagement Update

Executive Director Richard Young gave an update on CivicLex's effort on gathering community feedback on public input. In the fall of 2020, Young, Lamb and CIO's office began conversations about how to improve the public input process. CivicLex then conducted a survey in 2021 and the early months of 2022 to gather information on how to improve this process. They found that generally, residents participate when a specific issue is impacting their neighborhood or is an issue that they care about. They found that the reasons why residents do not participate in government, in part, is because they believe it won't make a difference or it was too late. Residents participate through government representatives, public comment, and other avenues. CivicLex found that people do want to be engaged and over half of the respondents thought that the current options were inadequate.

The second survey was for LFUCG employees. Most employees that responded to the survey thought it was important that public input is received. Most respondents were in the middle on the effectiveness of public input. Young shared some draft recommendations with the committee. He suggested that there could be more options for virtual and public input; restructure when public input is received by Council, adopt user-friendly technologies that allow for legislative tracking, education for residents, and other ideas.

Sheehan thanked Young and asked if he could talk about the demographics of the respondents. He said that the public survey tended to skew white, educated, and female. Young also said that the location of respondents were even across the whole county. Reynolds said she found the presentation helpful and suggested that public comment could be potentially moved to the beginning of the meeting. LeGris asked Young if there was a particular way he would like feedback. Young said that they are happy to set up a form on their website for people to provide additional feedback. LeGris also asked how Council Members would receive video entries. Young said that it could be watched in the council meeting or available online. Kloiber asked what the format of the meeting would look like for recommendation number two. Young said that they have seen examples where people come and say what they like and/or provide a presentation/feedback on an item. Plomin stated that this needs to be done and that it can be difficult for some people to find out what is happening in City government. Council Administrator Stacey Maynard said that the Core Staff is currently working on technology options with Legistar and Granicus representatives. There are online resources for the public process, but we may need to update the website. Additionally, they are currently working on a newsletter and updates.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

No items.

A motion by Whitney Baxter to adjourn at 3:00 PM, seconded by Hannah LeGris, the motion passed without dissent.

Meeting materials: <https://lexington.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=909918&GUID=91CB2678-C353-408A-8637-6F5C1D46599B&Search=>

Recording of the meeting: https://lfucg.granicus.com/player/clip/5547?view_id=4&redirect=true