

Social Services & Community Development Committee
November 19, 2013 Summary

Ford called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM. All members were present except Lawless and Lane. Clarke also was in attendance.

9.24.13 Committee Summary

On a motion by Scutchfield, second Beard, the summary of the 9.24.13 Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting was approved unanimously.

Introduction of Malcolm Ratchford, New Executive Director of the Community Action Council

Malcolm Ratchford, new Executive Director of the Community Action Council (CAC) was introduced. Mr. Ratchford discussed his plans for CAC including moving to more sustainable assistance rather than crisis assistance.

In response to a question from Akers, Ratchford stated that CAC is reviewing programs and program content to develop a more effective and efficient organization.

Myers discussed the data base needs of CAC and the LFUCG.

Childcare Assistance Reductions

Joanna Rose and Bradley Stevenson discussed the reductions in assistance within the childcare assistance programs offered statewide.

Myers discussed the use of kinship care.

Stinnett suggested that the Council send a resolution to Frankfort supporting changes to the child care assistance program as the present policy is encouraging parents to not work. He also asked CAO Hamilton to include this on the LFUCG legislative agenda.

Ford commented on the impact the reduction will have on early childhood development, workforce development and tax revenue.

On a motion by Ford, second Myers, to request that the Department of Social Services begin the process of pursuing an economic impact analysis on the issue of childcare funding cuts was approved unanimously.

Social Services Needs Assessment

Craig Benz provided an update on the Social Services Needs Assessment completed jointly by the UK College of Social Work and the Martin School of Public Administration.

Benz stated that based on the needs assessment, partner agencies that address the critical needs addressed (access to childcare services, access to mental health services and marketable jobs skills) will receive bonus points when LFUCG starts its review of partner agency funding applications.

Kay discussed the need to include lack of safe, affordable housing as a bonus criterion as well.

Manchester Bidwell Replication Project

Josh Nadzam provided an update on the Manchester Bidwell project.

Items in Committee

On a motion by Ellinger, second Myers the Social Services Needs Assessment was removed unanimously.

On a motion by Myers, second Ellinger the Summer Youth Employment Program was removed unanimously.

Myers stated that he would begin work on the resolution regarding childcare assistance reductions and bring it to Council prior to the winter break.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.