

Social Services & Community Development Committee December 4, 2012 Summary & Motions

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. All members were present except Crosbie and McChord.

11.20.12 Committee Summary

On a motion by Lane, second Kay, the summary of the 11.20.12 Social Services & Community Development Committee was approved.

UK Department of Social Services "Barriers to Self Sufficiency" Update

Dr. Diane Loeffler introduced the three students who presented the report: Ronica Whitlock, Rachael Ratliff and Josh Nadam. She also stated that the students will provide brief descriptions of three agencies and their respective needs.

She stated that the process will take three semesters to complete the work by October 2013.

Ms. Whitlock stated that the team interviewed representatives of twenty-one current partner agencies.

Ms. Ratliff stated that many of the partner agencies were providing services to not just the poor but to people within all socio-economic backgrounds.

Mr. Nadzam discussed Mission Lexington, an organization that provides free medical and dental services. Since 2006 it has provided over \$ 2.6 million medical and dental care. He stated that the agency needs more funds as the number of patients has increased annually. He stated that Mission Lexington was unable to receive federal assistance because of the relative wealth of Lexington-Fayette County.

Ms. Ratliff discussed the Bluegrass Community Action Elder Nutrition Program. It provides food for Fayette County senior citizens through three congregate sites and free home delivered meals and commodities.

Ms. Whitlock discussed the Kentucky Pink Connection which provides services for breast cancer patients by linking them with physicians and other services. She stated that the program had served over 3,000 clients.

The students stated that the agencies have identified several themes for their services including food and utility assistance; more requests for services; and the need for a living wage. The process has also identified several other themes of needs including shelter & housing; transportation; substance abuse; mental health services; education and job training; non-English speaking clients; services for seniors; child care costs; and affordable food.

Dr. Loeffler discussed the next steps including collaborating with the Martin School to complete a quantitative survey for service providers as well as utilization of existing data to identify and map trends. She also stated that they will identify key stakeholders for more in-depth interviews. She asked for assistance from Council in identifying the key stakeholders. She stated that they will update the committee next semester and present a final report October 2013.

Kay asked about the services offered internally. In response Dr. Loeffler stated that these services were part of the existing data that students are reviewing and analyzing.

Lane asked about the Mission Lexington waiting list. In response Nadzam stated that they are trying to identify additional doctors who will volunteer their services.

Ford discussed services needed to assist the working poor.

Lawless discussed services needed to address domestic violence.

Myers discussed the services needed to get people to self sufficiency.

Bluegrass Occupational Outlook to 2018

Myers introduced Ron Crouch who is a demographer with the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Crouch discussed the changing trends in employment, and attempted to identify the fastest growing occupations, area employment outlook; and education and training needed to address these future trends.

Crouch stated that we should develop jobs that pay people enough to live on. He noted the different training needs for high skill jobs and training needed for low paying service jobs. He stated that nursing is still a fast growing field.

Lane asked about the migration from rural to urban areas. In response Crouch stated that rural population loss is due to out migrating and very low birth rates. Crouch stated that the rural areas of Kentucky have not lost as much population of the rural areas of other southern states. Crouch stated that Fayette County needs to grow its middle class.

Lawless asked about jobs, income and young people. In response Crouch stated that 42% of Kentucky's children are born to unmarried mothers. He also stated that there is a strong correlation to educational attainment, the drop out rate and unwed parents.

Lawless discussed the impact low job wages have on the LFUCG revenues.

Myers asked about workforce development programs and getting training to address the needs of employers. In response Crouch stated that Lexington-Fayette County should identify specific training needs and work within the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board or other training providers.

Crouch identified health care and information technology as the fastest growing fields in the Bluegrass within the next ten years.

Emergency Solutions Grant

Irene Gooding stated that the 2012 Consolidated Plan includes \$23,174 in Emergency Solutions funds for use by the Salvation Army. Gooding stated that the Salvation Army has indicated in writing that it has decided to decline the funds because of federal regulations regarding data used to track the homeless population. She proposed that the funds go to the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program for shelter operations.

Ellinger stated that he is on the Salvation Army Board and that they have discussed this situation a great deal. They didn't want to decline the funds but they also didn't think that they could comply with the new federal regulations.

Myers suggested that before amending the Consolidated Plan that the parties involved meet to see if the compliance issue can be resolved.

Gooding agreed to meet with Ellinger and other Salvation Army personnel.

Ford suggested that the legislative body should allow the administration to resolve this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.