

Social Services & Community Development Committee
September 18, 2012
Summary & Motions

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Members present were CM Henson, CM Ellinger, CM Kay, CM Ford, CM Lawless, CM Stinnett and CM Crosbie. Absent were CM McChord and CM Lane.

8.14.12 Committee Summary

On a motion by CM Ellinger, second CM Crosbie the 8.14.12 Social Services & Community Development minutes and motions were approved.

Social Services Needs Assessment

Commissioner Mills made a presentation on the social services' needs assessment. She stated that this will be a joint effort between Social Services and the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Social Work. She stated that she anticipates 3-4 students will be assigned to work on this project in addition to support from faculty. She stated that the project will encompass 3 four month periods and the work will be completed by December 2013. The 1st phase will include reviewing existing needs assessments and interviewing the partner agencies to identify existing services, emerging themes and service gaps.

CM Myers asked about asset mapping and he referred to an asset mapping project he completed in St. Louis.

CM Henson asked about family services needs. She stated that we should emphasize parenting skills and family resources.

CM Lawless asked about the shift from emergency sheltering to emergency solutions.

CM Myers asked about poverty, education and financial literacy needs.

Ms. Mills stated that the students and UK faculty will be meeting with Councilmember's on Wednesday September 19 to receive additional input.

2013 Consolidated Plan Update

Community Development Director Gooding provided an update on the 2013 Consolidated Plan process. She stated that emergency shelter has shifted to a more comprehensive emergency solutions category. She stated that Social Services will independently review the applications for the emergency solutions grant.

CM Stinnett asked about unspent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. In response Ms. Gooding stated that LFUCG Engineering has been slow to spend project

funds but that has generally been a function of the time spent acquiring easements and right of way.

CM Stinnett also asked about the process to notify the public and interested parties about the process and funding. In response Ms. Gooding stated that her office notifies organizations via mail. CM Stinnett suggested that the Mayor's Office send a press release explaining the CDBG program and availability of program funding.

CM Myers asked about documentation regarding performance of agencies and their programs. He also asked about follow up surveys with the agencies receiving the funding.

CM Henson commented that many citizens do not know about the CDBG process or funding possibilities.

CM Ford asked about funding history. In response Ms. Gooding stated that the federal dollars are decreasing. She noted annually Lexington used to receive \$3 million in CDBG HOME funds. Now Lexington receives \$1 million in HOME Funds.

CM Ford stated that the community leaders need to do a better job making their case for additional federal support.

Ms. Gooding stated that if Councilmember's have a project in their respective neighborhoods, they should direct that information to the Department of Social Services.

CM Myers stated that Lexington needs a better understanding of the CDBG program, what its purpose is, and how it can be utilized.

Jack Burch with Community Action spoke about a CDBG funded home furnace project that was started when the need became evident. He also identified a playground site at the Russell School site that was funded through the CDBG program.

CM Ford stated that LFUCG should improve public outreach. He also asked how Councilmembers can interact in the process and assist in getting projects established.

Billy Mallory spoke about the East End Small Area Plan. She stated that she was not aware that the CDBG funds could be used to implement the economic development components of that Plan. She mentioned that she would like Community Development to address Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative and how they could utilize CDBG funds to address homelessness and housing needs.

Commissioner Mills stated that her staff can make a future presentation on the Emergency Solutions component at an upcoming meeting

Other Business

CM Myers asked about the scope of the needs assessment. In response Commissioner Mills stated that there are six functional areas of concentration: basic needs, healthcare, violence prevention, aging, community development and substance abuse. CM Myers asked where financial literacy would fit. In response Commissioner Mills stated that it would be within the basic needs category.

CM Fords asked about the issue of work force investment. He stated that he did not believe that Lexington-Fayette County was receiving adequate support from the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board. In response Paul Schoninger reviewed the method to refer an item to committee. He also stated that 2 members of the State Workforce Investment Board, Rick Chrisman and Ed Holmes, were from Lexington and they would be supportive of efforts to obtain more training within Fayette County.

Committee Referrals

On a motion by CM Ellinger second CM Crosbie the CDBG Consolidated Plan item was removed from the committee list without dissent.

On a motion by CM Ford second CM Henson the Section 108 loan program item was removed from the committee list without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25PM