

Social Services & Community Development Committee  
September 24, 2013 Summary & Motions

Ford called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. All members were present except Kay and Akers

*8.27.13 Committee Summary*

On a motion by Ellinger, second Beard, the summary of the 8.27.13 Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting was approved unanimously.

*Division of Grants & Special Programs Update and HUD Funding Status*

Director Gooding provided an update on the Division of Grants & Special Programs. She also discussed HUD funding. She stated that for FY 14 she anticipated funding cuts to the major HUD programs including the Community Development Block Grant program, HOME funds, Emergency Shelter and other homelessness programs, and the Choice Neighborhoods efforts.

Stinnett asked about the Section 108 grant to support the 21c project. In response Gooding stated that the application has not yet been submitted because the developer is amending the request slightly. She stated that the application will be for \$ 6 million leaving about \$ 2 million for other projects.

In response to a question from Beard Gooding stated that EPA funds most Brownfield efforts.

In response to a question from Myers Gooding did not think a reduction in HUD funding would impact the Section 108 grant to 21c.

Ford asked about the functions of the Division. In response Gooding stated that the Division prepares and submits the Consolidated Plan. In addition the monitor funds Going to both LFUCG and to partner agency's and ensure regulatory requirements are met.

Gooding also stated that the Division oversees most LFUCG grants and provides financial and regulatory oversight over the grantsmanship aspects of LFUCG.

In response to a question from Ford, Gooding stated that overall federal assistance for community development and social capital has diminished over time.

*Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs Update*

Isabel Taylor provided the update. She stated that the number of foreign languages spoken in Fayette County has dramatically increased over the past several years.

Taylor also stated that the number of students taking English Learning classes has increased by 194% since 2005. She stated that 15.4% of Lexington speaks a language other than English as their primary language according to the American Community Survey.

Taylor stated that the immigration population is growing in Fayette County because of several factors including the University of Kentucky and other area colleges and universities. She also stated that aggressive international trade has increased the foreign born population. Taylor stated that Kentucky is the fastest growing immigrant population percentage wise according to the American Community Survey.

Taylor stated that immigrants have the highest new business growth rate in the US; provide a higher tax base; high employment rate; higher international trade opportunities; higher educational opportunities; and provide for greater cultural diversity.

Taylor stated that there is still a lack of infrastructure for the immigration population in Lexington including a lack of interpreters and community resources geared toward the immigrant population.

Lane asked about the cost of English language training. In response Taylor stated that the cost ranges from free to several thousand dollars. Lane suggested combing learning resources to offer the training on a more wide spread basis.

Beard discussed the undocumented immigrant population.

Scutchfield discussed the temporal nature of the immigration population in Fayette County.

Ford discussed the need for more multi-cultural rescores for Fayette County.

### *Workforce Investment and Development*

Ford background and a brief history about the item in committee. He stated that he was concerned that at least 1 census tract in Fayette County had a un employment rate of over 20%. He also discussed the high poverty rate and low income rates in several Census tracts throughout Fayette County.

Ford made a motion, second Lawless to investigate Lexington-Fayette County breaking away from the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board to create a workforce investment Board for Fayette County.

Ford stated that this would allow Lexington-Fayette County more local governance over workforce training and investment in Fayette County.

Lane stated that there was not enough information to support the motion at this time.

Scutchfield agreed with Lane that before she could support the motion she needed more information.

Ford withdrew the motion and agreed to bring more data and information to support the motion at the next meeting. He stated that he was only requesting that Council investigate that option.

Myers suggested that the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board be invited back to the Committee to discuss Fayette County concerns and workforce training needs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

*PAS 9.26.13*