

Social Services & Community Development Committee
April 30, 2013 Summary & Motions

Ford called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. All members were present. Clarke and Henson were also present.

3.19.13 Committee Summary

On a motion by Stinnett, second Ellinger, the summary of the 3.19.13 Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting was approved unanimously.

Adult & Tenant Services Overview

Ford called on Commissioner Beth Mills, who introduced Connie Godfrey, Director of Adult & Tenant Services.

Godfrey reviewed the mission and responsibilities of Adult & Tenant Services. She discussed the Emergency Financial Assistance activities in the Division. She discussed the landfill/sewer assistance programs as well as the H2O assistance available. Godfrey also discussed the sidewalk replacement and tree removal assistance programs. She discussed the Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention programs. Godfrey also discussed the assistance the Division is providing Newtown Pike neighborhoods due to the Oliver Lewis Blvd road project.

Godfrey also discussed the proposed move of the burial assistance program to the Coroner's Office.

Stinnett asked how the Division will work with the proposed Office of Homelessness. He asked how rapid rehousing will work with the new office.

Kay asked about how many families were assisted by the Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention programs. In response Godfrey stated the 55 to 65 families were assisted by Rapid Rehousing.

Akers asked about the Newtown Pike assistance. In response Godfrey discussed the assistance provided to the neighborhoods impacted by the road project.

Social Services Needs Assessment: Understanding the Barriers to Self Sufficiency

Dr. Diane Loeffler introduced the student research team. Emily Underwood and Alex Hoover provided background on the needs assessment and the relationship between LFUCG and the partner agencies.

Rachel Ratliff reviewed the 2012 activities and provided a status of the spring 2013 activities. She stated that the team interviewed 21 partner agencies in the fall 2012 to understand social service needs in Fayette County.

She stated that they had identified an additional group of 70 stakeholders who were identified by the partner agencies and others. As of late April 55 of those stakeholders were interviewed to provide the team a broader scope of community needs. She also stated that this broader group may be able to identify barriers that may not be known by the partner agency representatives.

Josh Nadzam and Evan Holcomb discussed the preliminary emerging themes from the interviews of the 21 partner agencies: these include Poverty; Employment; Transportation; Housing; Health Care; Mental Health; English as a 2nd Language; and Substance Abuse.

Dr Loeffler provided a status of the process. She stated that the interviews will be coded and summarized and common themes will be further identified and described this summer. She also stated that the students will utilize Guide Star to survey approximately 400 IRS registered not for profit organizations in Fayette County to further exam needs and barriers to self sufficiency. Dr. Ginny Wilson stated that Martin School graduate students will analyze the data and map trends over the summer.

Dr. Loeffler stated that the students will update the committee in August and provide a final report after October. She stated that her goal is to provide the Council with data so it can develop a system or prioritizing funding decision.

Kay stated that the purpose of the research was to improve the decision making process. He stated that he hoped that the Social Services Department will analyze the data and make recommendations to the Council regarding priorities and funding levels. In response Mills stated that her staff would provide a series of scenarios for Council's consideration.

Kay stated that he hoped staff would go beyond scenarios but provide priority recommendations based on an analysis of the qualitative data. In response Mills stated that she could provide her opinions. She discussed concerns about the timeline for FY 15 funding discussion.

Myers thanked the students for their work. He stated that he was thankful that the students listened to stakeholder input particularly the Family Resource Offices at the Fayette County Schools. He also asked about stipends for the students. In response Loeffler stated that the University was able to use re allocate funds designed for a PhD candidate and provided the students a small stipend.

Myers discussed the need for an analytical process to ensure that the public resources were used in the most cost effective manner.

Akers complemented the student research team. She stated that when she was in graduate school not many students were interested in Social Work research.

Akers asked about analysis of Census data. In response Loeffler stated that the Census data would be analyzed later this summer.

Lawless discussed the need for new & innovative programs. She stated that because LFUCG had historically funded agencies and not programs, innovative approaches were not encouraged. She stated that these types of programs had high value and should be encouraged and utilized.

In response Loeffler stated that the research will support programs that meet the greatest needs of the community. Dr. Wilson stated that they hope to identify non financial activities that improve delivery of services.

Myers discussed next steps. He asked about recommendations and priorities beyond raw data. He suggested that they develop a macro view of our relationship with partner agencies.

In response Mills discussed a collaborative effort to address priority areas. Loeffler stated that she hoped the University's involvement would enhance the process by translating and bridging the academic approach to the identify best practices.

Kay stated that the primary outcome is that LFUCG will fund programs that address issues rather than just funding agencies. He stated that this policy shift will be able to identify innovative programming approaches and better serve the community and address its needs.

Akers asked about the survey of the 400 not for profit agencies. She asked if the research would identify overlapping duplication of services. In response Wilson stated that the survey will inventory these privately funded agencies and identify any overlapping services.

Ford complimented the student research team.

Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board Inter Local Agreement

Ford called on CAO Hamilton to discuss the inter local agreement governing the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (BGWIB).

Hamilton stated that based on the last committee meeting she met with Beth Brinley, the Commissioner of Kentucky Workforce Investment Board to discuss the BG WIB.

She stated that Commissioner Brinley offered substantial insights on the WIB. She stated that Brinley encouraged Lexington to sign the inter local agreement and actively participant in the process to improve services available for the workforce in Fayette County.

Hamilton stated that she and Mayor Gray had also met with the BGWIB executive board and that the board requested that Lexington also sign the agreement and to work thru the WIB structure.

Myers asked about future steps. He stated that the real work of working with our regional partners would just be starting. He stated that he wanted LFUCG to be an active participant in the process within both the BGWIB and the BGADD governing structures.

Hamilton stated that she and Commissioner Mills would be meeting with Jennifer Compton at the BGWIB and also attending the WIB Board meetings.

In response to a question from Myers Kevin Atkins discussed proxy voting system and started that the BGADD Board was contemplating a change in the by laws to allow proxy voting.

Myers requested that both CAO Hamilton and Atkins report back to the Committee regarding the resources that LFUCG can use to assist its constituents in the regional setting. In response Atkins stated that that can be included in the annual MOA requiring the BGADD to report to the Council on a periodic basis.

Ford requested that Akers temporary take the chair. Akers agreed. Ford discussed changing the relationship between to BGWIB providing that LFUCG should be considered a managing partner with respect to the 1-stop center in Fayette County. In response Mills agreed and discussed the other agencies which utilize the building on Industry Road.

Myers stated that he was supportive of LFUCG becoming a managing partner with respect to programs in Fayette County. Myers discussed the Attorney General's Opinion with regard to the relationship between the BGADD and LFUCG.

Akers stated that it was important to remember the clients and community not just the needs of the agency.

Hamilton stated that she would start the blue sheet process to sign the BGWIB inter local agreement.

Committee Referral Items

Ford reviewed the items referred to Committee.

Myers suggested that the Committee should discuss partner agency funding.

Kay stated that the discussion should include the shift away from agency funding and toward program needs funding.

Ford suggested that the homelessness issue, the partner agency funding process and the community development aspects of small area planning be included in upcoming committee agendas.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

PAS 5.7.13