



Social Services and Community Development Committee

March 20, 2012

11:00 A.M., Council Chambers

Minutes & Motions

Members of the Social Services and Community Development Standing Committee in attendance were Vice Chair Peggy Henson, Councilmember Chuck Ellinger, Councilmember Chris Ford, Councilmember Steve Kay, Councilmember Diane Lawless, Councilmember Kevin Stinnett, Councilmember Ed Lane, and Councilmember K.C. Crosbie. Members absent were Councilmember Jay McChord and Councilmember George Myers

Meeting started at 11:03 am.

Approval of Minutes and Motions (Page 2)

A motion by Chuck Ellinger to Approve Minutes and Motions, seconded by K.C. Crosbie, the motion passed without dissent.

F/Y '13 Social Services Partner Agency Funding Update (Page 9)

* Beth Mills, Commissioner of Social Services

Com. Mills said the Department of Social Services received more partner agency funding requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 than it ever has in the past. Applicant programs were ranked and given a score.

* Craig Benz

Mr. Benz discussed developing the new process for reviewing partner agency applications, the application process timeline, a summary of the applications that were received, the scoring method and the next steps for the process.

Between May and September there were four Committee meetings to discuss the pre-application process; the scoring rubric was approved in September 2011. At the pre-application meeting there were 70 attendees representing 50 agencies; this included 15 existing partner agencies. A total of 41 applications were received from 26 agencies requesting FY 2013 partner agency funding. Agencies were able to apply for more than one program. 13 applications came from existing partner agencies and 13 were from new potential partner agencies. The total allocated in FY 2012 to fund Social Services' partner agencies was \$1.75 million. Request for FY 2013 totaled \$3.23 million. Mr. Benz presented a pie chart that showed what types of program requests they received and noted that he would have liked more funding requests for services to senior citizens. The requests for program types included: services for senior citizens \$208,857; Mental health and substance abuse services \$987,196; positive youth development \$355,221; violence prevention \$212,185; public health \$244,142; and basic human needs \$1,221,724.

Six scoring committees were comprised of four to five people and each reviewed six to seven applications. Each committee member signed a non-conflict of interest statement, used objective scoring sheets, and heard oral presentations by applicants after preliminary scoring. Mr. Benz presented agency rankings for each applicants based on a 100-point rubric.

The next steps include making FY 2013 funding decisions based on scores; fine tuning quarterly reports for FY 2013 so that information requested is consistent with the information provided in the application; and considering quarterly partner agency communication meetings. FY 2014 improvements include an online survey to review the process and discuss improvements that can be made to the application and scoring process. A needs assessment for funding will begin in fall of this year and Mr. Benz expects this will refine funding priorities.

CM Kay asked if the figures for FY 2012 included only Social Services' partner agencies or other partner agencies as well. Mr. Benz stated that the \$1.75 million only included Social Services' partner agencies.

CM Stinnett asked if there was a list of organizations that received funding in FY 2012 but will not be receiving funding in FY 2013. Mr. Benz said that Bluegrass MHMR (Comprehensive Care) applied this year but did not meet the application requirements. Big Brother Big Sisters did not apply for FY 2013. CM Stinnett asked why Comprehensive Care did not meet the application requirements. Mr. Benz stated there were four application requirements: an agency must be a 501(C)(3), they had to attend the pre-application meeting, they had to submit the application electronically, and had to upload a profile on GoodGiving.net. Mr. Benz state that Comprehensive Care chose not to upload a profile on GoodGiving.net. CM Stinnett asked if Council voted on the requirement and created an ordinance stating that partner agency applicants had to go through GoodGiving.net to be eligible. Mr. Benz stated that it was discussed in the committee but an ordinance was not created. Mr. Benz stated the purpose is to reduce paperwork and without the profile the information for the application would be incomplete. CM Stinnett expressed concern and discomfort with the decision to exclude someone based on not having a profile on GoodGiving.net. CM Stinnett recommended putting an ordinance together to formalize the process and make it clear to the public why GoodGiving.net is necessary.

CM Ellinger asked how the \$1.75 million available to partner agencies is going to be divided amongst the \$3.23 million in program requests. Mr. Benz said that a committee will be convened within the next few weeks comprised of the Mayor's administrative staff, Councilmembers and Department of Social Services Advisory Board members. The committee will be presented with options and determine whether the funds will go solely to the top scores or if they will be distributed by funding categories.

CM Lane stated that Council recently passed an ordinance relating to the use of real estate owned by the city, noting that is supposed to be evaluated through this process to determine the fair market rate of property as well as the cost of operating expenses so those could be considered more definitively as they are related to partner agency grants. Mr. Benz stated that information was requested in the application process and there were about

eight agencies that receive either in-kind dollars from LFUCG or CDBG. CM Lane said that the Division of General Services should evaluate those properties and set the market value and advised working with Com. Sally Hamilton to do so.

CM Crosbie said all the agencies seem to have need and she is concerned that a lot of the new applicants are ranked in the bottom while existing partner agencies are ranked at the top. She said it tells her the new applicants didn't know what they were doing or did not understand the process. She noted that one agency ranked high almost all of the way through with its program requests which totaled almost \$1.5 million. She expressed concerns with how the funding is going to be determined and making sure that this is an even process. CM Crosbie asked at what point is it said that LFUCG can only do so much for that agency. Mr. Benz said that one idea is putting a funding cap on how much an agency can receive and that will be discussed with the allocation committee in the coming weeks. CM Crosbie requested Mr. Benz to come back and let the Committee know how the funding requests are going to be allocated.

CM Lawless asked if any consideration was given to programs that receive Federal or State match grants. Mr. Benz stated that was a question in the application but was not considered in the scoring of an application. CM Lawless said that match grants are significant if you have an agency that depends on partner agency funds for a match grant to provide services to the community. CM Lawless expressed surprise that was not considered in the scoring. Mr. Benz said that is great input he would be glad to add to the process for the next funding cycle. Mr. Benz said he could add that information for the scoring committee in the next week so they are aware if there is match dollars on the table.

Com. Mills added that the scoring rubric allocated extra points to agencies that requested less than 20 percent of the agency's total funding. Com. Mills said there are a lot was learned from scoring committee input. Com. Mills discussed the historical processes used for making Social Services partner agency funding decision. At one point it was the Advisory Board that picked the agencies, then a Mayor came in and wanted to pick the agencies but there never really was an application. In recent years there were not oral presentations. This process diverts from that. In Louisville they have used this process for years with similar requirements and deadlines. Com. Mills asked Mayor Gray how he would like the funding recommendations to be determined and he liked the panel idea. CM Lawless said she thinks Com. Mills did a great job and added that it would be helpful to have a list of each agency, their total request and how many applications they submitted.

CM Henson said she participated in the review committee process and she thinks this process is definitely better than what has been done in prior years. CM Henson said there were significant increases in requests from partner agencies that have been funded in past years and asked Mr. Benz if the majority of the existing partner agencies requested increases. Mr. Benz confirmed that the majority did request more for FY 2013 than they received in FY 2012. Mr. Benz reviewed the amount existing partner agencies received in FY 2012 and compared it to their requests for FY 2013. CM Henson said the bottom line is there are a lot of needs in the community with little

dollars to go around. She said once the needs assessment is completed it will certainly make the process much better.

CM Ford noted there are twice as many requests as there is funding available. CM Ford asked if the department is considering zeroing in on certain needs opposed to spreading the funding out across all agencies. Com. Mills said it is the Department of Social Services intent to fund agencies that are doing programs that cannot be done in house. She said it is up to the Mayor and the Council to allocate the funds while it is her goal is to have accessible human services across the community. CM Ford said that en lieu of a needs assessment this is a policy decision. He said he would welcome making a policy decision about whether the resources should be spread across all of the categories or whether it should be focused on the greatest needs.

CM Kay said that this Committee made a policy decision that shifted the basic notion about what government is doing with outside agencies by shifting focus from funding agencies to providing funding for programs. He said it may be that when the policy is reviewed that the Committee is not comfortable with it but right now the emphasis is to not fund agencies on an ongoing basis but to encourage agencies to provide new and innovative ways to meet the need of the community. What that means is agencies that have been traditionally funded may not rank as high. He said the Committee has two roles, setting the policy and allocating funds consistent with the policy. CM Kay said he thinks the new system has worked relatively well as he served on the scoring committee. CM Kay said he sees opportunities for improvement but in this fiscal year the Committee has a responsibility to be consistent with the policy that was set.

CM Lawless asked if agencies were aware of what the funding priorities were going to be. Mr. Benz said yes and that information was presented at a pre-application meeting. CM Lawless asked about what type of services some of the applicants provide. Mr. Benz said he would send a summary of all the applicant programs. CM Lawless asked whether there were points awarded to agencies that did not include salary increases. Mr. Benz said they did not penalize organizations for including salary increases but they did ask for that information in the application. He committed to sending that information to the Committee in a spreadsheet.

CM Henson asked Com. Mills if there are other agencies that receive LFUCG funding but are not considered partner agencies. Com. Mills said that CASA is considered to be part of government along with Partners for Youth. Com. Mills was not sure how those relationships came to exist. In sum Com. Mills said that the new system is not perfect, but it is better than what was previously being used.

Items in Committee (Page 21)

A motion by K.C. Crosbie to Adjourn at 11:53 a.m., seconded by Chuck Ellinger, the motion passed without dissent.