

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes: March 29, 2021

Attendees: Deb Schorr, County Board; Christa Yoakum, County Board; Dave Derbin, County Board CAO; Sandra Washington, City Council; James Michael Bowers, City Council; Jon Carlson, Mayor's Office; Adelle Burk, Mayor's Office; Renee Dozier, Region V; Rachael Surmick, United Way; Sara Hoyle, Human Services; and Jenni Ryan, Human Services (via phone).

Excused: CJ Johnson, Region V

James called the meeting to order. Sandra made a motion to pass the consent agenda. Jon seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

Human Services Activity Report

Sara highlighted the following items from her report:

- The Comprehensive Juvenile services Plan was updated. This year's planning was a quite an undertaking with a new process and things being done through zoom.
- 3 state grants were submitted along with 2 federal grants.
- FEMA is now offering financial assistance for individuals who passed of Covid. This covers up to \$32,000 for burial or cremation expenses. Human Services staff have been working with mortuaries as an avenue for assistance rather than County funds.
- Sandra asked about progress made on the RED committee. Sara summarized data from the University showing disparities. She said the RED Committee is working on a training for school administrators covering how complex the juvenile justice system is for families. Sara also shared the committee is working on quarterly racial equity training after the book discussion on "You Won't Believe What Happened to Lacey". The RED Committee is also working on the police academy for at risk youth. LSO and LPD are part of this initiative.

ACTION ITEMS: None

UPDATES:

Multi-Cultural Center Update

Tom Randa, Executive Director of the Good Neighbor Community Center and Chair of the Multi-Cultural Center Coalition gave a brief history of the Multi-Cultural Center Coalition. In 2009 they developed a strategic plan, but there was no follow-up. In 2014 Roger Garcia did a lot of work moving the Coalition forward. (See attached handout for overview). Christa asked if the cultural centers offer their employees benefits. Tom said it depends on the amount of funding raised during the year. Deb asked how they meld the desire for a central location with everyone's separate work. Tom said this is a challenge. He said currently the vision is similar to a mall where each agency will have their separate identity.

JBC Semi-Annual Reports

This year we left it up to the agencies if they wanted to work with Dr. Wiener to evaluate their data. Christa shared that she appreciated the success stories. Sara asked if anyone had feedback or suggestions for moving forward, please let her know.

Digital Equity

Deb learned about a program in Kansas City called Digital Equity in which previously used laptops were cleared of data and repurposed for youth & low-income individuals. The County received stimulus money to provide access to broadband internet to all residents. We do a good job of providing that infrastructure but is

there also a need for the equipment to access the technology (computers, computer literacy, etc.)? Students have Chromebooks, but only during the school year and only certain things can be accessed on it. People are also lacking in knowledge about how to use computers, computer programs, internet, etc. This is a huge piece in raising people out of poverty. Sara mentioned we gave some Chromebooks away early in the pandemic.

Rachael pointed out that we are talking about 3 separate things: 1) infrastructure; 2) educational/student access and 3) adult workforce access. We need strong data on where the gaps are in order to move forward. There is also room for this conversation within the non-profit community.

REPORTS:

United Way, Rachael Surmick: May 17th at 12pm they will livestream their annual meeting and what's happened this past year. They extended their 2-year funding cycle through another year, so it will last through June 30, 2023. This will allow their funded partners time to deal with the long-lasting impacts of the pandemic.

Region V, Renee Dozier: Cost savings from Medicaid Funding allowed for gap funding for agencies.

Stronger Safer Neighborhoods, Jon Carlson: There has been a lot of work on messaging for the additional \$14 million of Rent and Utility Assistance. After the Mayor's press release, there was a significant increase in the number of requests for assistance.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2021 from 2:30-3:30pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Jenni Ryan,

Lancaster County Human Services