

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes: May 24, 2021

Attendees: Deb Schorr, 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; CJ Johnson, Region V; Sara Hoyle, Human Services; and Jenni Ryan, Human Services (via phone).

Excused: Renee Dozier, Region V; Christa Yoakum, County Board; Meagan Liesveld, United Way

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

Human Services Activity Report

Sara highlighted the following items from her report:

- Data Infographic from Dr. Wiener was handed out. Let Sara know if you have any feedback. One note – juvenile court doesn't use the terminology "guilty" and "not guilty" so perhaps it shouldn't be used here.

ACTION ITEMS:

JJPF Recommendations

Had several new applicants get recommended for funding this year – Boy Scouts & Mentoring Plus are new, Salvation Army's Shield program is new, Brain Injury Association is new though they currently have a program funded by JBC. **VOTE: Sandra motioned to forward the recommendations to the Board for approval, Jon seconded. Motion Passed 3-0.**

JBC Funding

The County Board approved an additional \$217,520 for JBC in 2021-2022. We reviewed budget justifications for those requesting more than the 3.5% cost of living increase. Most of the increases were COVID related, so we also went over the percentage of the increases from their current budgets to their requested budgets. After much discussion it was determined that Sara would review the requests again and pull out those asking for COVID-related funding to reserve for the upcoming ARPA funds we will be awarding in the near future. Discussion included concerns about being diligent about future years funding and looking at budgets if we do large funding bumps with property tax dollars. There was also discussion on using ARPA funds for JBC programs but it was pointed out that there are repercussions for our agencies if we do that as many of them use JBC dollars as match funds, which cannot be done if those funds move to federal dollars. There are also greater audit requirements when federal funds are involved and some of our agencies don't currently have to undergo the single audit requirement. Federal reporting requirements can be burdensome as well. There was some clarification requested on what the Board's intention had been for the additional \$217,530 – was it supposed to be for new programming and agencies not currently funded or to increase the currently funded programs? **VOTE: Jon motioned to adopt the 3.5% increase and any increases not related to COVID expenses, Sandra seconded. Motion Passed 3-0.**

UPDATES:

ARPA Funds

Sara, Adelle, and Jennifer Brinkman met to discuss how to braid City & County APRA funding. There were four areas discussed: Racial Equity, Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Educational Gap. It was suggested to follow the JBC review process for funding for non-profits. This would be limited time funding, can't be used to sustain programs but could be used to build things within the community or agency. How do we form partnerships with State agencies to maximize the usage of these funds across the state?

REPORTS:

United Way, Meagan Liesveld: Not present, no report

Region V, CJ Johnson: Worked with DBH on Alternative Service Delivery and contacted all partners to allow them to provide service in all formats, so they didn't have any service loss. Covid gap funding enabled them to pay providers based on contracted rates/levels rather than actual service levels. They are seeing a huge lack of draw downs due to Medicaid expansion & CARES funding, so they are currently sitting on millions of dollars. They will be focusing on supportive services that Medicaid doesn't pay for. Deb mentioned the Justice Council had a conversation about the negative ways Medicaid expansion is affecting providers. The reimbursement rate is lower than previous payment sources plus there's additional paperwork, so they've had to hire additional staff or increase wages for existing staff.

Mayor's Office/One Lincoln, Jon Carlson/Adelle Burk: They have disbursed \$2.5M in ERA funds to residents and are continuing to support residents through the Human Rights Commission to intercept eviction proceedings. The Health Department is seeing vaccine equity issues.

Next Meeting: July 26, 2021 from 2:30-3:30pm in the City Council Chambers

Respectfully Submitted:

Jenni Ryan,

Lancaster County Human Services