

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes: July 26, 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; Meagan Liesveld, United Way; Sara Hoyle, Human Services; and Jenni Ryan, Human Services (via phone).

Excused: CJ Johnson, Region V

James called the meeting to order. Deb made a motion to pass the consent agenda. Christa seconded. Motion passed 6-0 with no objections.

Food Net Report – Jeff Chambers

Jeff reviewed the report, see attached. In March 2020 they switched from Service Point to Clarity. Food Pantries, food vouchers, ongoing & occasional emergency food assistance are included in the report. Matt Talbot and People's City Mission are not included. Sandra asked about knowing the number of unique persons from Service Point vs. Clarity – Jeff will look into it but it's most likely not possible to determine as the systems count people/households differently. Ultimately Clarity is a better software which played a role in making the switch.

ACTION ITEMS:

ARPA Grant Process

We are requesting about \$15M to allocate. We wanted to use a process the agencies were already familiar with and be transparent. We designed the ARPA process to mirror our JBC process and priorities. It will function as an open application; agencies will be required to meet with Sara prior to applying. There are federal restrictions, and we still don't know what the reporting requirements will be. It is intended to be used for one-time costs. DOJ requires a risk assessment of all sub-awardees. We will use this risk assessment as part of the application when it comes before the JBC to review. We have several questions in the application which will trigger whether additional assessment is needed. There is a matrix associated to the questions. We want to make sure we're reviewing applications in a timely manner. Currently we've placed no maximum or minimum on the requests for ARPA funds. Discussion ensued about whether we should put a minimum requirement due to the weight of the federal requirements. We don't want to exclude smaller agencies who could use a smaller amount to make a real difference whereas trying to meet too high of a minimum could become a barrier. Discussed what kind of technical assistance we are willing to provide those agencies that may need help managing the requirements and what our capacity is to provide such support. **VOTE: Sandra motioned to approve the proposed ARPA process, Dave seconded. Motion Passed 6-0.**

Community Action Partnership ARPA Application for \$800,000

They've applied for ARPA funding to purchase an additional segment of their existing building and to undergo renovations. They have a whole department that does quality assurance and have federal funding already so there is no concern about their ability to meet the requirements. HVAC and capitol outlay fit right into the ARPA funding priorities. JBC had a question on the numbers currently being served vs. the numbers that would be served with the additional space. **VOTE: Deb motioned to approve the request contingent on receipt of documentation of the numbers served now and projected for the future, Christa seconded. Motion Passed 6-0.**

*Before the meeting ended the agency was able to provide clarification on the numbers being served & to be served. **VOTE: Dave motioned to reconsider the previous vote, Christa seconded. Motion Passed 6-0.**
VOTE: Deb motioned to approve \$800,000 in ARPA funds for Community Action Partnership, Christa seconded. Motion Passed 6-0.

UPDATES:

Covid Update - None

REPORTS:

United Way, Meagan Liesveld: Their Board approved a second round of year 2 funding for \$1.8M plus initiatives for a total of around \$2.3M

Region V, Renee Dozier: They continue working with the Zero Suicide and 988 initiatives on messaging and collaboration. They want to create a similar process so if people at risk of suicide call 988 they are able to receive an assessment and follow-up right away. Want to make sure that 988 agencies & Zero Suicide agencies respond in the same way. They experienced about \$3M in savings with Medicaid Expansion. They're looking at how to reinvest those dollars among their providers, specifically looking at services not funded by Medicaid such as walk-in centers, respite centers, etc. They want to make sure they're not duplicating services when we should be collaborating.

Mayor's Office/One Lincoln, Jon Carlson/Adelle Burk: The City is going through their budget process and looking at adding a Diversity & Inclusion position within HR. ERA funds total \$8.3M disbursed so far (\$5.8M of that from the latest treasury funds).

Sara Hoyle: Project Connect is Sept 14th. We will have a booth at the County Fair for ERA.

Next Meeting: September 27, 2021 from 2:30-3:30pm in the City Council Chambers

Respectfully Submitted:

Jenni Ryan,

Lancaster County Human Services