



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Zoom

11/04/2020

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Vice Chair Zach Dillon, Rebecca Stitch, Elizabeth Pebley, Lisa Keating, Magdalena Stickel, Cherrielee Matthews, Chair Rahn Clayton, Secretary Kelly McDonald, Valentine Smith

Commissioners Absent:

Jason Grube, Jovan Dumas, Luis Beltran, Naomi Wilson, Amanda Scott-Thomas

Staff Present:

Linda Stewart, Kristin Ely, Tiegan Tidball, Vicky McLaurin, Renee Johnson

Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:10pm

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Zach Dillion

2021-2022 Funding and Allocations Recommendations

Linda presenting on behalf of NCS. Reductions & mitigations to reduce impacts to community & vendors-Community safety: \$326 (MHSUD)

- Belief & Trust: \$565 (holding positions open for 1 year)
- Receiving additional FTE for 21-22 (temp) to assist with establishing community safety office
- Safe housing & neighborhoods: Rapid graffiti
- Expanding programs for homelessness
- Rental assistance continuance
- Community health programs (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.), youth development, reduce senior programs
- Community violence prevention
- Voice & diversify community voice
- Continuity of essential service, deliver services in response to pandemic

- Rebecca question on shifting police dept duties to community services
- Transition management of contracted services for mental health code response to NCS. Coordinating with policy to select vendor for trauma response team Program new position to assist with office of community safety (process informed by heal heart of Tacoma & new police chief).
- Getting input for new police chief?
- Dept. not represented on search committee

Funding recommendations:



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- With consideration of \$40 mil revenue shortfall, all dept directed to maintain essential services, support transformation process, pandemic response services (in accordance with council priorities)
 - Buckets of funding: Aging & disability, housing, shelter, community, homeless support services, wellness, youth development, etc.
 - Difference between last year's budget & this year's budget (significantly less)
 - Aging & disability: \$898,753 to \$499,033
 - Community: 852,837 to \$353,292
 - Homeless Support services: \$2,345,845 to \$2,207, 124
 - Housing: \$1,823 to \$1,707,733
 - Shelter: \$8,535,586 to \$12, 406,856
 - Violence Reduction: \$1,548, 8—to \$2,170,703
 - Wellness: \$5,061,369 to \$4,987,024
 - Youth development, opportunity & achievement: \$2,407,384 to \$2,056,568
 - Ne provider set aside: \$0 to \$400k-500k
 - Total: \$24,933,790 to \$27,463,639
 - Reducing by \$4 mil, increasing supports to human services programs
- Zach question: Change need based or budget based?
- Linda answer: Can't reduce funding for shelter (state of emergency); must reduce funding. Domestic violence, youth violence reduction data says we need to reduce funding. Need to decrease funding was budgetary. Without pandemic response \$\$ we'd be shifting money to cover increase in shelter (hit to other programs much more significant)
- Data drove priorities; performance & budget determined rest. Must fund program that have and continue to work during pandemic.
- Lisa question about how rental assistance is being considered in funding, future outreach for shelter homelessness risk.
- No reduction in rental assistance (increased allocation by \$1 mil), outreach to what might be done for no police response to encampments, mental health response
- Is there a projected end date to rental assistance program?
- Not right now, eviction moratorium will be lifted eventually. Current program says people not concerned with rent, when moratorium is lifted, they'll have to pay rent, help when that happens
- Normally we would interview & rate applications. After pandemic, providers were notified there would be no competitive process (no extra burden during pandemic. NCS also saw reduction of staff (to close revenue/spending gap). Keep all providers, essential services provided (might see reduction, some see increase).
- Program areas recommendations: no change in senior services immigrant services, disability services. Decreasing senior activity services.
- No change in community mobilization, increase hilltop action, decrease in safe streets, THA
- Graffiti removal: decrease
- Bridge budget to get through tough financial times
- Neighborhood councils: no change



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- Homeless outreach, comprehensive life resources, rescue mission: decrease
- Site reclamation: TBD (fencing/other needs): decrease
- Consejo counseling, KWA econ., NW furniture bank (furnishing homes), Sound outreach: no change
- Dave Purchase project, KWA case management: increase
- Homeless prevention: some decreases
- Affordable housing: increase of linkages program
- Shelter: increases (DV shelters), only Valeo vocation decreased
- Violence reduction: no change for most programs, increase for YWCA legal services
- Wellness: food insecurity, funding food banks, increasing
- Health & HC: CTRT increase, no change for most programs, decrease in New Phoebe House, THA Community Wellness
- Youth Development & Opportunity (mentorship, youth engagement): decrease in most programs, no change in Leadership Foundations. When revenues improve will likely seek more funding for these programs. No change for other youth development. Trying to offset impacts.
- 60% of budget out to community, understaffed, intentionally hold off on staff costs so can keep funding essential services. Finished budget presentations yesterday. 2nd public hearing for council on 24th, show up & comment. Once budget is approved, will negotiate & award contracts so they have funding by January 1st.

- Rebecca question: budget shortfall before or after CARES\?
- Linda: General fund, so before.
- How much CARES was the city able to get?
- Can get answer, only tracking community services. Have \$\$ already, are secure.

- Linda: Vote on support of approach to advance?
- Zach: motion to approve agenda.
- Rebecca second.
- Motion passes unanimously

- Rebecca moves to approve funding proposal
- Zach seconds
- Motion passes unanimously

Review/Approval of February and October Minutes

- Lisa moves to approve both months
- Zach seconds
- Motion passes unanimously

HSC Elections and Recruitment Planning

Conversation on continuing offices – Zach willing to serve through January, unsure past then. Send email to commissioners to think on offices, recruitment in May.



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NCS Report on October HSC Requests

-Kristin responding to questions from last meeting, childcare needs funding. Follow up, beginning of pandemic, providers notified of funding decisions, put out survey (Coleman & Associates) survey found top concerns about ability to work remotely, access to tech, concerns for staffing. Survey results led to digital infrastructure program to providers.

-Kristin: Rebecca emailed about website, update with concern about no agendas & minutes posted online, needed to correct, has been corrected through 2018. Meeting info also posted, same zoom link through June. Meeting was recorded, admin roadblocks for recordkeeping, filesharing process. Need to circle back with commission liaisons. Will continue to work on, will get back with more info.

-Rebecca: Emailed about meetings, looked at website, wanted to mention should get info online as people can access meetings online when they otherwise couldn't. Thanks to Kristin & staff to get this access uploaded.

-Kristin Update, meeting was set up as special meeting, no public comment because not feature for public comment. Is an option to upload question option. Interested?

-Lisa watched Health Board, callers could call in for comment, school board can now as well. Is there an opportunity for written comments if no access?

-Kristin can enable community response options so we can see & respond. Part of agenda for public questions, also have call in feature, let know ahead of time for logistical purposes.

-Rebecca went to meeting where she could make comment, will take more time. Time would be consideration.

-Let Kristin know if that's a feature we'd like.

-Rahn: Check into options & decide on agenda. Consider writing as well, feature so we could have presentation to commissioners. Right now we don't have a lot of comments, we should have option for the future. Put it on agenda for future deliberation.

Review/Excuse Absences

No emails from members.

-Zach moves to excuse all absences since February for pandemic confusions. Restart tracking absences next meeting

-Lisa seconds

-Motion passes unanimously.

Good of the Order

-Lisa sharing Pierce County case numbers, increase. Prompted to listen to health board. Discussed age group 20 under is fastest growing positive cases. Good info to share. Young males least likely to get tested, higher percentage contracting. Working on campaign to encourage young people to be more diligent. No designated factor contributing that they know now. Health dept providing food/care packages to those in isolation. Positive news.

-Rahn: Keep in contact with more info, info is good. Anything else.

-Tiegan: Voted last year to take December off, should we keep it this year?

-Rahn: We decided for December off. How do we feel? Anything important in December?

-Zach officer elections & recruitment. Pushed it off to next meeting. Kristin will send email to remind. Positions to end in May, supposed to do elections couldn't. That's the only thing to get delayed until January. New members start in February.



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- Rahn: We should have December meeting so we can handle this.
- Valentine agrees with Rahn's point. Should meet.
- Multiple people agree
- Rebecca: Terms ended, who can run? How does that work with reappointment?
- Rahn: Staff submit questionnaire to guidelines to run.
- Zach: Any person can run, stay on commission as long as appointed until reapplication. Might be nice if we're voting to get more info on positions. Whole process in one session.
- Magdalena: Problems receiving emails, didn't receive funding proposal. Anyone else? Please resend email.
- Kristin will resend, check into emails bouncing. Let her know in future to make sure she got it.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:29pm

Zach moves to adjourn, Rebecca seconds. Motion passed unanimously.