

Human Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room, 7th Floor
September 15, 2015 3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Ryan McIrvine, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE: Ryan McIrvine, Amy Koehl, Leslie Anderson, Henry Malphus, Linda Smith, Chad Buechler.
Excused: Shannon Matson, Brook Dodd. **Absent:** Kyle Burleigh. **Staff:** Karen Bergsvik, Dianne Utecht, Katie McClincy, Jennifer Jorgenson.

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chad moved to approve the June Minutes as presented. Leslie seconded the motion; motion carried.

2. AGENCY TOUR REPORTS

Members reported on their visits to the agencies.

Leslie: Puget Sound Training Center, which is primarily hands-on training for skills working with forklifts, jitney driving, warehouse equipment, and basic education as well as résumé preparation. They recently started offering multi-lingual training at this facility. She was impressed with how well organized they are and the quality of the good, basic education and training they provide for their students.

Linda and Chad: REACH Center of Hope – Linda coordinated the visit, as she is the Director for the Center. They are very appreciative of the support they receive from the City and its staff. They help an average of six to seven families transition into long-term housing each month. Chad commented on the irony of changing a jail into a center of hope for those in need.

Chad appreciates the structure that has been established to run the facility, noting it is set up to help people work. He wonders if one of the roles of HSAC members is advocacy, and how members can advocate for the needs of the homeless.

Chad: Margie Williams Food Bank – His visit was more focused on getting answers to questions, than observing the food bank in action. He saw this as a true grass roots effort with a lot of organic community outreach, including some home deliveries.

He saw how they could use volunteers to help with the manual labor, such as moving 50-pound sacks of potatoes and onions. He thought the high school Key Clubs, and the Renton schools in general, might be an option because they have a volunteer requirement to graduate.

Chad: Renton Meal Coalition – He saw that there were a lot of families and diverse populations with a sense of community being served. He learned that Leigh, the community chaplain, and Maggie, the Executive Director, have been doing outreach to downtown businesses to offer to help with some of the negative behavior of some of the homeless in the downtown area. A few homeless individuals are causing problems, especially in the vicinity of 720 So. Tobin. This tends to cast a negative few on all the homeless populations.

Dianne: Washington Poison Control Center – She found it to be very enlightening. They are a very pro-active resource available to anyone that calls. For example: This could benefit seniors who may forget if they've taken their medications; they can find out if it would be harmful to take them twice or whether it would be better to wait and take them when they are supposed to.

Amy: Is going to Washington CASH on Thursday. The Ukrainian Center visit needs to be re-scheduled.

Visits to CryOut, Orien, and Youth Advocacy Center need to be scheduled. Karen asked the leads to share the schedule information with the rest of the members so they could go along if desired.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING BRIEFING

Dianne highlighted the terms of the consultant contract and noted the final reports had been received and the hard copies are being distributed to the members today.

Linda reported that the REACH Center of Hope was a beneficiary of these efforts and presented a candid discussion on how the process worked for her organization. She admitted to being skeptical at first because she didn't know what to expect. The consultant used a gentle process that left her feeling valued and important. She especially appreciated the oral interview portion of the process and believes it will be an ongoing very useful tool for them.

The organizations will now prepare their next steps going forward based on their individual report outcomes.

4. SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

Dianne reported the Emergency Feeding Program (EFP) is getting a large number of return customers. EFP provides food to agencies that give out the food as needed. It is supposed to be an immediate, short-term solution that supplements the food bank. It is not designed to serve people more than once. In order to better track their numbers, they have changed the way they operate. Agencies can't replenish their food supplies until all the paperwork is turned in. The agencies have since become better in doing that, so their performance numbers shall be going up accordingly.

5. HUMAN SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN AND FUNDING PLAN

Karen reviewed what work remains to be done month by month, in order to complete the plans by December 2015. Some of the key points are:

The Funding Strategy needs the most work. Good data sources for the indicators need to be identified, and the data has to be easy to get.

- A. The priorities in the Community Needs Assessment need to be overlaid with what we are currently funding to see what and differences are. One challenge is how literal or figurative do we want to be, in terms of the identified needs? If we are literal, it means fewer programs will fit into the new priorities. If we are figurative, then more programs will be funded, but will that be helpful when we are trying to narrow what is funded so that the funding will make a difference? Karen asked the members to read the Needs Assessment while looking at the *intent* behind the need.

Karen will review the consultant agreement with BERK and see if all the funds have been spent.

- B. Karen is working with Leslie Miller, the Human Services Manager of Kirkland, in an effort to do an analysis of what the 18 cities in King County are spending on their human services. This has

been more difficult than anticipated, as each city defines human services differently. They do have the data on what cities allocate to human services agencies but in some cases, like Renton, this is just part of what the City does.

- C. The Strategic Plan has five initiatives. We need to pick a couple initiatives to work on in the next two to three years and develop an implementation plan for each of them. One of the factors to consider is, do we pick the easiest (lowest hanging fruit) to do, or do we work on the highest need? Another factor is the staff capacity, as there is only part of one person (Karen) that will be working on it.
- D. Karen is facilitating a regional capacity building group. This group is working on many of the same issues that the Advisory Group identified. It would be helpful to know what is happening regionally, prior to deciding on what strategies to work on. Another South King County effort is the group that is working on Brookings Institute *Suburbanization of Poverty*; this group is focusing on employment. Karen suggested that a guest speaker can speak on these regional efforts.

6. HSAC VACANCIES

The overall recruitment of additional members was discussed. It is hoped to have the position filled by the end of the year. Ryan requested that the committee members think about people that might be good for the Committee.

Leslie asked if the committee is considering changing the days and time of the meetings to be more favorable for volunteers. She has someone in mind, but their work schedule won't allow for afternoon meetings. Karen advised the schedule could be set to accommodate the wishes of the Committee.

Chad suggested members share the recruitment link using Facebook and Twitter.

7. MISCELLANEOUS/UPDATES

- A. The Mayor's Day of Concern for the Hungry is Saturday, September 19th. This is a food drive for the Emergency Feeding Program and the Salvation Army Renton Rotary Food Bank. They are both looking for volunteers who are willing help with the two-hour shifts. Help is needed at the stores, and at the agencies (unloading/stocking). It was suggested that items that can't be used by the Emergency Feeding Program be given to the Margie Williams Helping Hands Food Bank; Dianne will work on it.

Key Clubs and Just Serve (justserve.org) were suggested as places to recruit volunteers.

- B. Karen commented that the first four-week series of financial literacy classes were done in Renton, in partnership with First Savings Bank, the YWCA, the Salvation Army, and the City. The City's role was to provide daycare and the printing of materials. There were seven graduates.
- C. Sound Cities information on Homelessness – Karen noted the Public Issues Committee of Sound Cities met in Renton a few weeks ago. Cities shared the work they are doing with the homeless. Cities in King County are all facing the challenge of dealing with more of the chronic homeless in their downtown areas.

- D. The Renton Housing Authority and the Low Income Housing Institute (LiHi) are both applying for funding to build affordable housing in the City. LiHi is planning on building 48 units in the downtown area near Harambee Church.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan McIrvine, Vice-Chair

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 2015, 7th Floor, Renton City Hall
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM