

Human Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room, 7th Floor
March 17, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Shannon Matson, Chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE: Shannon Matson; Linda Smith; Leslie Anderson; Chad Buechler; Amy Koehl; Kyle Burleigh; Henry Malphus. Excused: Ryan McIrvine, Brook Dodd. Unexcused: Dorothy Capers. City of Renton staff: Karen Bergsvik, Dianne Utecht. Guest: Berk Consultants Annie Saurwein and Allegra Calder.

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

2. WORLD CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS SUMMARY

The committee members were invited to share their thoughts and observations from attending the World Café conversations.

Members commented overall on the great attendance and the diversity of people attending, and noted that they learned about what services people provided and how that met the needs. Some of the suggestions made were on services that already existed, leading members to comment we needed to communicate better about services being provided. Specific comments on sessions included: including jobs in human services was a broadening of perspective and raised the question about what human services role is in economic development. Karen noted that Worksource and Youthsourc apologized for not attending the Cafés. City staff met with Youthsourc. Leslie noted that she would have liked to have seen more Renton School District staff attend. Early Learning folks were well represented, but no alternative education staff attended.

Public Engagement Summary

Allegra asked Committee members to review the public engagement summary and let Berk know if there was anything missing. They can take email comments. Noting that transportation and childcare came up at all the sessions, it might be useful to do an overall findings, pulling the common themes from all sessions.

3. OPTIONS FOR FUNDING PLAN

Annie reviewed the analysis of Renton and other local cities' current funding for Human Services. She noted that Exhibit 1 was best viewed as a ranking, with Renton in the middle of cities overall in the per capita human services funding. There are some variations from other cities on what is and is not included.

It was noted that of the agencies funded, 21 agencies have received funding from Renton during the last six year period. Any major shift will impact organizations relying on our grants and we may want to consider phasing in the plan.

Pros and Cons of Renton's current funding:

Con:

- Using past allocations as future predictor of need
- Funding a good proposal vs. need, e.g. Washington Poison Control, even though not in needs assessment

- Questions about follow up with the \$4,000 capacity building funds. Will we continue to fund? What method will we use to assess success? More staff time needed to monitor and evaluate.

Pro:

- Used the same criteria to evaluate large and small agencies-perhaps have two grant funds with higher and lower amounts of funding available and let them self-select
- Process was unbiased and fair
- Took risks with some small grants
- Using the same application process reduced costs to organizations applying

Goals for Human Services Funding/Strategies:

- Currently we are meeting the needs
- Need to figure out how to value intervention (how do you weigh detoxing one infant vs. 200 mentored kids?)
- Do we need to stay in a two-year cycle?
- How do we get return on investment (ROI) without defunding or destabilizing our base services?
- Need to support survival and stabilization while seeing sustainable improvement
- Need professional evaluators to determine a lot of the ROI
- Improve system to provide basic needs, then look at special initiatives/prevention needs

4. DRAFT STRATEGIC OPTIONS

Allegra reviewed the existing definitions for Inspire, Invest, Connect and Evaluate. After discussion, the Committee agreed to reword the inspire section to be more aspirational and positive. Suggested roles the City can play include actively collaborating, providing networking opportunities. They noted RANU members included all non-profits and was broader than Human Services. What role should the City play in RANU and is the city the best player? The Committee wanted to be innovative, not traditional, "Be a committee understanding the needs of the most vulnerable, mindful of all the different people in the city."

Invest: Housing is an issue going beyond human services but we can potentially address housing in smaller grants, like security deposits and assistance. They liked the idea of a mini City hall in the community.

Connect: Community Services has a customer service orientation. We should focus on systems, how to understand, and navigate them.

5. NEXT STEPS

There will be time at the next meeting to add anything you may want to see in the plan. In May, the Committee will need to prioritize and narrow down the content.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Shannon Matson
Chair

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: APRIL 21, 2015, 7th Floor, Renton City Hall
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM