



Human Services Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, January 12, 2015, 6:30-8:30 pm

Members Present: Lynn Fleshman, Steve Daschle, Carolyn Mansfield, Jason Dick, Valerie Bays, Kellen Baker

Guest: Miles Mitchell

Staff Present: Alaric Bien

Public Comment:

- Miles Mitchell commented that he is back from school and that the Commission helped shape who he is today. He is starting his own entrepreneurial business and would like to continue to be involved in the community.

November 10 Meeting Summary: Approved

Updates from Commissioners:

- Steve attended the King County early learning symposium where the iLab director talked about brain science, people shared what was going on at the Federal level as well as locally. At the lunch following the symposium, elected officials talked about what they should do. Might this also be a focus for the Commission? Consider advocating for parent child home program on the Eastside?
 - Would like the County's Best Start for Kids staff to present to Commission.
- Jason met with Councilmember Shutz. There are no additional funds for human services this biennium, but the Council is very supportive. Consider a levy, raising taxes, increasing the percentage of the General Fund, maybe add a human services component in the parks plan. Commissioners were invited to come to the Parks and Human Services Committee meetings. They are looking for more of a business case or at least more specificity on why human services needs more money and what it would do.
 - Commissioners also discussed attending Eastside Human Services Forum board meetings.
- One Night Count is coming up. Val will participate this year.

Updates from Staff:

- The City will be installing signs to encourage giving to “charity” rather than panhandlers in the next couple of months. Commission was concerned about the message this might give to community members. After discussion, decided to authorize Jason to write a letter on behalf of the Commission to mayor/council after consultation with no more than 2 other Commissioners.

Old Business

Debrief Study Session

- Great job all around, good conversation and questions. Nice to have statistics to frame the discussion.
- Next step – Commission will nudge Parks & Human Services Chair to request mayor looking into what it would take to do a levy (pros, cons, mechanisms, different options).
 - Jason will email chair to talk about higher percentage of general fund and/or \$87K before levy discussion.
- Carolyn will meet separately with staff to talk more about her data ideas regarding prevention.

New Business

2014 Accomplishments

Reviewed work plan and noted that all items were completed. Also noted the fall Food Drive and Family Fun Night as accomplishments.

2015 Work Plan

Discussed creating new “buckets” for programs rather than the old 5 United Way categories. After discussion, decided that it might not be worth the time and effort. Commission does want to ensure that it covers all areas of service and then distributes funding equitably.

Items to add to the work plan:

- Joint Human Services Commission meetings to educate city commissioners on specific issues such as:
 - Best Start for Kids/early learning
 - Committee to End Homelessness strategic plan
 - needs of foreign born residents and the role of human services
 - how to use data effectively (consider consulting with Roadmap people).
- Funding – identify how much we need (to do what) then decide on the vehicle to attain.
- Educate community/visibility of Commission in the community/advocacy
 - consider quarterly community activities
 - education of community of current services available (2-1-1)

- change human services to be considered as part of city infrastructure in budget
- homelessness
- Data – in context of increased funding
- Innovation – promote and encourage nonprofits
- Get a new youth representative