



Human Services Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, February 9, 2015, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

Guest: Amy Morgan, Valley Cities Counseling

Staff Present: Colleen Kelly, Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

Public Comment: Amy Morgan introduced Valley Cities Counseling, their new clinic in Bellevue and the range of services they provide.

January 12 Meeting Summary: Approved with one correction: Under New Business, 2015 Work Plan, second line should read, “decided that it might not be *worth* the time and effort.”

Updates from Commissioners:

- Steve, Kellen, and Wendy will attend the levy open house on Tuesday. Others can complete the survey online: www.redmond.gov/levy

Updates from Staff:

- Lynn will be stepping down from the commission after 12 years. We all sincerely appreciate her efforts over the years. She will be missed greatly.
- In process of negotiating contract for The Sophia Way. In the application, they combined the shelter and home programs. They had service units for case management in the home program but have quite a bit of funding for that and not so much for the day center and shelter. They would like to shift funding to these areas. Units will be increased accordingly.
- Met with YMCA staff and Redmond Elementary principal regarding Neighborhood School House. The Y has decided to do only 1 class/day of enrichment to the highest need kids. After spring break, will stop all after school programming for the year. They are working with Summerwood Apartments to provide services over summer as well as during school year. Will come back to commission when plans are firmer.
- Previously scheduled March Family Fun Night conflicts with the joint commission meeting. Will move to May 5.

Homelessness

Mayor's Meeting

Jason and Steve met with the mayor after submitting the letter concerning panhandling signage. They made their case to the mayor who chose to not go forward with the plans at this time. They would like if the mayor could consult with the Commission before making decisions regarding human services issues. Suggested perhaps having residents/business owners come to voice their concerns at commission meetings.

Joint PD/HS Efforts

Colleen gave an overview of what's going on with homelessness efforts at a macro level. Discussed the Committee to End Homelessness' strategic update shifting to rare, brief, and one-time. Emphasis on prevention and strategies to get people back into housing, as will be explained at joint commission meeting in March. Community engagement is another focus. The idea is to let everyone in the community know what their role might be to address this issue. The Landing has been seeing increasing police activity, especially after the murder last summer. Panhandling complaints have gotten lumped together with homelessness issues. There is increased visibility at the library. RPD has actively worked with the library, and the city has increased funding for beds at Landing, but still not enough.

Colleen facilitated a meeting with RPD and downtown businesses on homelessness. Mostly listening. An agreement was made for mediated discussion between RPD and The Landing.

At last year's joint council meeting between Bellevue and Redmond city councils, they directed police and human services to talk about homelessness broadly. We have convened meetings including Kirkland, Issaquah, Sammamish, and Bothell. We will be working on issue of panhandling, working with KCLS, and tent city ordinances.

Community Distribution List

Instead of always reacting to complaints from the community, the city is trying to be more proactive in our communications out to the community. We have created a distribution list for periodic updates on city efforts regarding homelessness and plan to have a community conversation in the near future. Will look at Everett's effort as a potential model.

2015 Work Plan

Discussion postponed to next month.

Joint Commission Meeting

The Director of the Committee to End Homelessness, Mark Putnam, will give a strategic plan update at the meeting on March 3. Bellevue also has an epidemiologist coming to talk about health disparities. Commission decided to continue to meet on March 9 to complete the work plan and talk about homelessness task force recommendations.

Fourth Quarter Data

Brooke is working on formatting the data and will send out next week. The biggest take away is that agencies are consistently way over performing. Housing and shelter numbers need to be viewed in light of the broader system as they have no control over who comes into their programs.