



Human Services Commission

Meeting Summary

Monday, June 10, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Members Present: Anny Smith, Shawn Roland, Jacob Brown, Vibhas Chandorkar, Kristen Muscott, Arjun Ram

Staff: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

Guests: Jose Gomez, Carmen Bueno, Oscar, Sharon Guzman, Jackie Bui, Jon Young, Karina Wiggins, Samantha Smith, Kai Schwartz

Public Comment: none

Public Hearing on Proposed 2020 CDBG Allocations:

Fourteen day public notice was given on the proposed allocation plan for 2020 CDBG funds. This meeting served as the public hearing for comments on that plan. There was no public comment.

May 13 meeting summary: approved

Youth Panel

What trends are you seeing?

- 2018 [Healthy Youth Survey](#) found that only 10% of students don't feel safe at school, 90% have a trusted adult. There were increases in vaping and marijuana usage, but decrease in alcohol use. 8% report severe anxiety. Providers report financial stresses and the political environment contribute to anxiety, while youth report the biggest factor is academic pressure.
- Additional period at high school means more classes, more homework, great pressure to take Advanced Placement classes.
- Uptick in opioid use in 18-24 year olds and higher levels of psychosis with longer term homeless youth noted.

What gaps are you seeing?

- Students need coping mechanisms for stress/anxiety – like Freshman Academy at Redmond High.
- Need balance between academics, work, family time.
- Multiple week waiting lists for inpatient substance abuse treatment.
- Families of means can get outside consults and access special services easily. Others don't know system or how to work it.
- Need more summer youth programs and scholarships.

- Need bilingual/bicultural family advocates.

What challenges or barriers are there?

- Families don't know about availability of special services.
- Rents are increasing, but the minimum wage is not keeping up. Lack of affordable housing forcing families to move every year.
- Coordinated Entry for All waits are months long to get into housing.
- Not enough mental health professionals to provide treatment even when sufficient funding is available (Best Starts for Kids grant).
- Different mental health providers all have different requirements for whom they can serve. Medicaid reimbursement rates insufficient.
- Need for wrap around services - case management along with mental health treatment.
- Hiring bilingual/bicultural staff and people of color in general is difficult.
- More and more difficult for kids on Avondale to get to teen center with traffic.

What is important for us to know?

- Family involvement is key to youth success (and program success)
- Youth Eastside Services has Open Access program M-Th, but 90 clients on wait list.
- Home visiting program with family wrap around/CORES is great.
- Scholarships for college needed, but also students working to support family adds stress, impacts academics.
- Many families don't know how to work the system(s) to advocate for their students.
- YES tries to work with family system in addition to the youth, care teams include therapist and case management.
- Youth of color are disproportionately homeless.

Updates from Commissioners

- Kristen reported that the summer lunch program is ready to go, but unsure about participation as they have asked families to preregister
- Annie announced that she will be graduating this weekend from UW.

Updates from Staff

- Two new commissioners, Rue Khosa and Janet Richards, will be interviewed by Council June 18 and potentially sworn in on July 2.
- Staff have been working with the Eastside Complete Count Committee preparing for the 2020 Census. Redmond is considering contributing to the Regional Census Fund to promote outreach to hard to count Eastside populations.

2019 1st Quarter Reports

Reviewed programs with performance issues and plans moving forward. Also discussed what information commissioners would like to see in the narratives. Will request agencies to tie narratives to service units.

Potential Community Events

- Work with Latinos Unidos - small grants for social justice issues.
- Samantha Smith's idea for high school ambassadors at city hall.
- Educate community on issues and services available (but there may be significant wait lists).
- Supporting students with anxiety and giving parent concrete tools to help their kids.
- Welcome Week event.