

MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

Video Conference

Thursday, August 13, 2020

start 3:04 pm

Call to order by Kevin Oden at 3:04 pm

1. Roll Call: Present - Ann Margolin (Chair), Jennifer Snow, Linda Garner, LeTitia Owens, Britton Banowski, Josh Cogan, David King, Tami Fowler, Alan Tallis, Kevin Cooper, Lisa Marshall, and Amy Desler. Joined late - Brandon Vance. Not present - Christian Marquez and John Shellene

2. Public Comment – No public speakers registered.

3. Approval of June 22, 2020 Minutes were approved
Approval of the July 9, 2020 Minutes were approved

4. Chair's Report: Commissioners attended their first subcommittee meetings in the week prior to the full Commission meeting. These meetings were largely organizational and set the Committees' agendas for the coming months.

5. OHS Updates Presented by Kevin Oden, Director (i)

Kevin Oden reported COVID-19 testing took place at the Wyndham Grand Hotel and the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center on August 10, 20. A total of 319 were tested and only 4 resulted positive among all sites.

Mr. Oden also reported that our Street Outreach team took an encampment resident thru our services and connected him with a job interview. He obtained employment with an IT Firm and we are working with him through the RRH program.

Mr. Oden also gave an update on the proposed FY20-21 Budget of \$12 million from general funds and \$12 million in grant funding and he provided a brief explanation of fund allocations.

Chair Margolin set 5 minutes including response time for questions on the presentation.

An update was requested on the proposed Inclement Weather Shelter ordinance. Mr. Oden informed the Commission that the City Council deferred action on the ordinance until September 23, 2020.

A request to include a one-year renewal of the Bridge Management Services Contract and Union Gospel Mission to continue operating the shelter as part of a one-year renewal. Kevin explained the Management Services Contract for the Bridge will continue under the current funding level for one year in FY20-21. For the FY21-22 there will be time to work with the Bridge and staff as well as the Commission and City Council to update the contract that has existed since 2007.

Topic discussions also included the Homelessness Diversion Program, Racial Equity Committee, analysis of funding priorities between OHS and MDHA, redesign of the Street Outreach program, a likely increase in evictions, and property acquisition sites.

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Commissioner Garner and Commissioner Cogan spoke about work done in a subcommittee last year with former commissioner Chad Cruz about a documented plan that was supposed to be carried forward to this year that covered expanding pro equity; for Racial Equity, Gender Identity, sexual equity. Commissioner Cogan said he could provide that documentation to OHS for review.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Letitia Owens, Chair of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee asked direction from Kevin on the outcome of what has already been done, so they can better plan their objectives. They requested metrics, so they can advise OHS on what they are already doing, Ms. Owens stated their first objective is Street Outreach encampment resolutions. The plan is to focus on providing outreach services rather than moving people from the encampments. It was suggested to redefine Street Outreach to assist homeless more.

Vice Chair David King, Chair of the Budget and Capital Investments Subcommittee stated his Subcommittee will focus on OHS contracts and review processes specifically for compliance and approval from HUD for the use of ESG funds for RRH program. It will also focus on funding to help reduce unsheltered homeless people and assess shelter resistant individuals.

Alan Tallis, Chair of the Contracts and Compliance Subcommittee stated their objective is to provide guidance and suggestions on contracts and compliance. He added the involvement needs to be prior to RFP design and release. They will be recommending goals and metrics with the focus on compliance. They will look at anticipated funding sources and uses from next fiscal year's stand point. They will work with funding, not in the sense of how much funding is received, but how the funds intertwine with RFP's issued next year. They want to be informed about the current grantee performance requirements and contract compliance.

7. A presentation by Ellen Magnis CEO of Family Gateway

Ms. Magnis presented a Homeless Response Community Dashboard for basic system level information for reporting and tracking. She stated the system will provide community wide information including demographics and data entered by participating agencies, service providers, etc. The dashboard is updated daily and is evolving with collaborating data.

Discussions:

A suggestion was made that the dashboard capture the cause of homelessness. Information such as loss of employment, mental health issues, and other information would be useful data in addressing the root causes of homelessness.

A Commissioner asked why residents who are in housing programs are reported as homeless. Ms. Magnis agreed that those residents should be moved so the data only reflects residents who are sheltered or unsheltered.

A Commissioner asked if other agencies servicing people experiencing homelessness were also participating in this program. Ms. Magnis stated that there is a plan to incorporate participation with the Dallas Area Partnership.

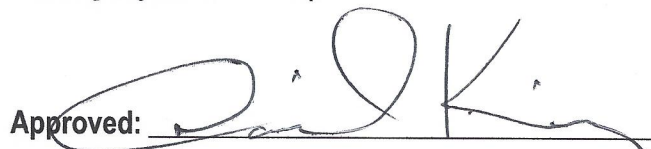
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It was suggested that the dashboard be written in layman's terms so that it is easy to understand. Also, the suggestion was made to include a HEAT Map showing where the homeless encampments are located.

Ms. Magnis said the Dash Board is online now available to everyone. This is Version 1.0 and improvements are continuously updated.

Ms. Margolin thanked Ms. Magnis for letting us be a focus group.

Meeting adjourned: 4:59 pm

Approved:  Date: 12-1-20

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