



**Human Services Advisory Committee Agenda
City Hall East Second Floor Conference Room
City Hall East, 601 E. Hickory, Denton, TX
Friday, March 2, 2018, 11:30a-1:30p**

Members Present: Ryan Appleton, Pamela Barnes, Meredith Buie, Laura Mauelshagen, Stephen Coffey, Hannah Garcia, Roy Onyebetor, Christie Wood

Members Not Present: Angela Bennet-Engle, Jane Upshaw

Staff Present: Danielle Shaw, Barbara Ross, Sarah Kuechler

I. Call to Order

A Quorum was established. Hannah Garcia, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2018

Minutes from February 23, 2018 were presented for Approval.

Stephen Coffey moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Christie Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Discussion of Priorities and Funding Recommendation Strategy scheduled for March 9, 2018

Chair, Hannah Garcia provided a brief overview of the meeting that was added in the schedule to provide time for the committee to hold additional discussion about funding and priorities before holding a meeting to make final recommendations.

Garcia then presented an overview of the spreadsheet she developed to help her frame the discussion for funding. Garcia explained the categories identified highlighting a trend that was revealed in this data, the majority of the application are requesting funding for salaries and of those requests the majority of the salaries funded are poverty level wages. It was discussed that these are the types of issues that are putting a spotlight on the member's interest in changing the process for allocations. She then reviewed all the columns in the report providing descriptions of the analysis that each section of the spreadsheet offered and how certain fields could be used to look at the impact to units and unduplicated served at different levels of funding.

The review of the spreadsheet inspired more generative conversation about the overall application process and goals the members would like to see met. Members discussed the different stakeholders and potential for different funding priorities for each. The conversation touched on trends in poverty, homelessness and the limited availability of affordable housing that has a greater impact to the City. Specific items in the current application were addressed including a request for an addition to the application to obtain more wage data like salaries per hour. Members also expressed that there could be some better intentional connections to other City advisory groups that are likely seeing and in some cases trying to solve the same problems happening across the city that are a result of poverty, housing and wages.

Members had a targeted discussion regarding what the HSAC overall charge and scope was related to how it makes recommendations to City Council. Discussion focused on the difference between a role to recommend funding based on the application received for Human Services Grant or a role that extends to a broader service as advisors to the City Council and to agencies to encourage funding applications for prioritized areas.

Recognizing that they want to make sure to provide sufficient time to develop a new process and train agencies on any changes to the grant program, it was decided not to make any changes at this time in the current funding process. Consensus was the members would like to engage in a planning process with City Council to identify changes in the grant program that would be more informed and data driven to ensure they are recommending funding that is less duplicative and has the highest impact for solving prioritized community problems. Staff recommended that early summer might be a good time to facilitate this discussion. This would give the HSAC time to be proactive in informing agencies and working with City Council for guidance before the next grant cycle. The goal expressed was that it is the HSAC's intent to ensure the funds are a good investment for the City and the funds be allocated in a way that there is long-term positive impact.

Members returned to a discussion of housing affordability and its impact across many sectors in the City. It was a general consensus that more needed to be done to address this growing problem. Members expressed the relationship to the earlier conversation about what is their role in facilitating these types of conversations to help better inform resources needed to meet emerging and urgent issues in the community.

Garcia brought the conversation around to how it wanted to use the information discussed today at the next meeting. Staff was asked to take information from the current member evaluation form and add it to the new spreadsheet tool to have the data in one document. Members will be set the updated spreadsheet this afternoon. Staff asked that any completed forms be returned to staff by Thursday March 8, 2018 if they want it to be included by the Friday meeting discussion.

In closing comments, members discussed how they wanted to still seek some feedback from City Council members in this grant application cycle. Staff provided guidance on appropriate process for conducting this communication with City Council members. Vice-Chair Laura Mauelshagen volunteered to draft an email, send it to members for review and comment. Mauelshagen will then will forward the email to City Council members seeking the feedback. City Council members will be asked to copy staff on any response.

IV. Adjourn

The next meeting of the committee is Friday, March 9, 2018, at 11:30a – City Hall East.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Danielle Shaw, Staff Liaison to the HSAC

Minutes Approved: March 9, 2018