

Community, Housing, & Human Services Board

October 5, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at **4:05 PM**.

Attendance/Introductions

- **Board Members Present:** Kathryn Alexander (Co-Vice Chair), Gordon Graves, Barb Lee, Adriane Leithauser (Interim Chair), Jeri Rathbun, Karen Ssebanakitta, Kathleen Torella, Betsy Wilkerson, Johnathan Bingle, Brei Gorder, Robert Lippman, Eric Robison
- **Staff Present:** Tessa Jilot, Kim Clifton, George Dahl, Jenn Cerecedes, RaMona Pinto, Daniel Ramos, Kelly Burnett, Devin Biviano, Laura O'Brien
- **Guests Present:** Nicolette Ocheltree

The Attendance roster listed above may not capture all the individuals that attended virtually if they joined the meeting after it had started due to the limitations of the virtual meeting platform

Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by Eric, seconded by Kathryn, **approve the agenda; approved unanimously.**

BOARD AGENDA APPROVED.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Eric, seconded by Kathryn, **to approve the September Minutes; approved unanimously.**

Board Education:

Retreat Visioning Review: Kathryn reviewed some of the topics that were most brought up during the visioning exercise which included clarity in what the Board is trying to do, improving public comment to the Board, expanding some of services to include childcare assistance funding, more home remediation, and more regional partnerships with County, agencies, Spokane Valley, etc. There is also a strong interest in neighborhood impact, multi-income projects, working more directly with marginalized neighborhoods and working on what makes a vibrant neighborhood, neighborhood wellbeing – including health, economically vital neighborhoods. More funding sources that aren't so rigid in what the funding can be used for.

Karen made a comment to take some of these and try to make them the education piece moving forward such as finding out more about the childcare in the city and where could we help fill some gaps.

Kathleen offered to have the county present on some of the services that they provide that are more wrap-a-round regarding behavioral health to help avoid duplication between the CHHS Board and the County and to help identify where the Board could potentially help.

Gordon suggested having Workforce Development come in so we can work on a collaboration there.

Some more discussion followed.

Discussion and Action:

CAPER: George summarized the comments received. One suggested closing down the CHHS Department. The other was someone providing their personal story about housing affordability and lack thereof. Both comments are in the CAPER verbatim (without names for privacy).

CoC and CHHS Boards: Jenn gave a brief overview of when the Boards split and some of the issues the CHHS department has run into as far as which board approves which funding. It basically came down to CoC would approve Homelessness funding and CHHS would approve Housing funding but that could leave the department without a policy in place should they no longer be the collaborative applicant with the CoC. Jenn then asked if the Board would make a motion to make funding recommendations on all funding sources outside of CoC dollars. Adriane asked Jenn to explain more about the CoC funds which Jenn then did provide more information on. Some clarification questions followed, mostly hypotheticals about what would happen if the City was no longer the collaborative applicant with the CoC.

MOTION by Karen, seconded by Jeri, **to approve the CHHS Board manage the RFP process for any funds that are not CoC related; approved unanimously.**

Committees: Adriane reminded new board members that they are expected to participate in a subcommittee but to be careful to not create a quorum.

ERAP 2.0: Karen gave a brief overview of what had happened with past ERAP funds and CHHS Department gave a solid report about how the funds had been previously used as they should be and asked that the funding be allocated to the original three agencies in proportional amounts to the first awards. Some discussion and clarification followed.

MOTION by Kathryn, seconded by Jeri, **to approve RFP Committee's recommendation for allocating ERAP 2.0 to the same three providers in the same proportion as the previous funding cycle; approved unanimously** with Brie abstaining.

Updates:

Director's Report: John Hall has left as NHHS Director as of last week, Jenn is filling in until Eric Finch returns, there is another candidate that the City Administration is working on hiring, but we cannot divulge that information at this time.

There are extra CDBG funds we are trying to get out the door and will hold a meeting at the East Central Community Center with stakeholders to help set priorities for the funds. George helped give more details on what the CDBG funds can be used for.

Staffing levels are up. Despite this, we have more contracts and dollars than staff can handle, so we are looking to expand further so we can take more advantage of more funding opportunities for our community. (It's a good problem to have but we'd like to fix it rather than suffer with it.)

It is PIT time again; we are getting started on planning for 2023.

City Council Update: Councilman Bingle has a new legislative assistant. Bingle put forward a home occupation resolution that was unanimously approved by Council to update the code to expand more home occupations and businesses. Council President and Landlord-Tenant groups are talking about an ordinance with rental registry, landlords needing business licenses, closing the just cause eviction, etc.

Affordable Housing Committee: There isn't a meeting this month since there will be other things to meet about coming down the pike. Nominating Eric to AHC. **MOTION** by Kathryn, seconded by Karen, **to appoint Eric to the AHC Board; approved unanimously.**

RFP/Evaluation Committee: No update.

Announcements: None.

MOTION by Bob, seconded by Gordon, to adjourn; **approved unanimously.**
Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 PM.

The next CHHS Board Meeting is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** and will be held in the City Council Briefing Center and online.