

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

July 13, 2018

Attendees: Cyndi Lamm, City Council; Jennifer Brinkman, County Board; Kerry Eagan, County Board; Jon Carlson, Mayor's Office; CJ Johnson, Region V; Brian Wachman, United Way; Wende Baker, United Way; Sara Hoyle, Human Services; and Jenni Ryan, Human Services

Excused: Leirion Gaylor Baird, City Council; Deb Schorr, County Board; Renee Dozier, Region V

Guests: Matt Walters & Brandon Holding, The Orchard/Wellbeing Initiative

Sara called the meeting to order. Minutes were passed as written.

Human Services Activity Report – Sara Hoyle

See attached. Sara highlighted the following sections of her report:

- Crisis calls for youth continue to grow. The Region has come on board as well to provide additional resources and funding.
- Lincoln Unites was held May 12th. 30 people received their Citizenship that day. Refugee arrival numbers are down more than half from what agencies had planned for.
- The NLC group has decided to look at efforts to reduce FTA's as 45-50% of book-ins are due to failure to appear or failure to pay fines. Spaces on new citations have been added to collect cell phone number & carrier information. They are also working on developing a website to provide info about attending court & signing up to receive text reminders. Lancaster County will pilot the project when it's ready.
- Partnered with the SRO Interlocal to apply for grant funding for Strategies for Youth training.
- Ordered merchandise for LPD to hand out to older kids – fidget spinners and police car stress balls.
- Applying for 4 federal grants through Grants.gov
- We have been sending satisfaction surveys via text message to diversion families upon discharge each month.
- Diversion enrollment is averaging 8 days from referral to intake.
- Our Comprehensive Plan was updated.
- Have a contract with UNL Psychology & Law Department for an intern to be available to us for up to 20 hours per week to assist with data and research.
- We've updated our pages on the website to be more user friendly to juvenile justice families. Jenni now has access to testweb and will soon be able to make updates to the live site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan

The new plan has been approved and sent to the Crime Commission. We have to update our plan every 3 years in order to draw down state and federal juvenile justice funding. New to the planning process this year; we sent out surveys to parents and youth to get their feedback on how they would want to be treated/have their child treated at various points (school, police, courts, etc.).

Wellbeing Initiative

Matt provided several handouts. See attached. The Wellbeing Initiative is a 501c3 nonprofit established in 2013. The Orchard is their largest program. The organization is 100% peer-run; a peer is someone affected by homelessness, mental health, or substance abuse. They had to begin reducing services and staff due to funding constraints. Their warm line was discontinued though it was well-

utilized. They will cease operations July 31st if they don't see funding. It will leave a void in support services for this population. Rent is their biggest expense but they have an opportunity to use another space rent-free though it is not in as good of a location. They have potential partnerships with CenterPointe & MHA but many members are uncomfortable with formal treatment plans and enrollment in services with those agencies. They are working on being able to get some reimbursement from Medicaid. CJ shared that Medicaid is starting to fund peer support services with clinical oversight. They believe that with enough transparency with their members they will be ok with Medicaid rules. Sandy Thompson from FIF could be a good resource for them to speak with. They have some funding lined up to start in January 2019 (SAMHA grant still in approval process) but need funds to meet their deficit between Aug-Dec 2018. They have received a Cooper grant for \$15,000 to start in May and another grant with CHE is in the review process. Their application through Woods was rejected – they feel it was poorly written but it would have developed a peer training academy which would provide revenue in the future. They are asking for \$10,000. JBC would need to see a budget for how that money would be used. Sara will forward the request to JBC once she receives it from them.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Bridge Update

The City is giving \$50,000 and the County is giving \$100,000 once through final budget approval. The discussion held at the Board was about how to get through this year. In the future we'll see them come through the Keno & JBC grant processes. It would cost The Bridge a lot to adapt their model to what the state is asking for funding requirements. Some Council members met with some people on working to make this process move smoother for CPC and the Bridge. We may need to work with the legislature on language & interpretation of Medicaid requirements.

JBC Visioning Meeting

Leirion, Deb, Cyndi, and Jennifer will be meeting on July 19th to discuss the future vision of JBC funding.

REPORTS:

United Way, Brian Wachman & Wende Baker: Goal this year is \$7M. Last year raised \$6,860,000. Pace setters have started. They had a little more money in undesignated funds to award this year & just awarded around \$2M. Just deployed results-based accountability measures and will have a 6 month report as well as a 12 month report based on those new measures.

Region V, CJ Johnson: At the Division level – the last couple years they've been doing cost studies. It will cost more money to raise rates. The Division has been trying to trim secondary services to the point where when they ask for funding they'll be able to say if they aren't given the funds then primary behavioral health services will be cut. Necessary services should be those that are nationally accredited, which is where difficulty with The Bridge's funding stemmed from. Medicaid also doesn't pay for room & board for telecare services & so the Region has been stepping in and paying for that, which they are longer able to do. Nationally our agencies are very small and financially fragile. The Region has had to front agencies funds just to make payroll many times over the years.

Stronger Safer Neighborhoods, Jon Carlson: National Night Out neighborhood parties will be August 7th.

Announcements:

Jennifer – The County signed a contract this week with the Mission to use the Curtis Center as a transition place for 18-25 year olds to stay at rather than the jail. The program would allow them to

develop work skills at the Mission and wrap other services around them before transitioning them to more stable housing.

Cyndi – The Autism Family Network has been working to develop a location program. Project Lifesaver will be training police in NE Lincoln. Youth will sign up for a band to wear & police will already have descriptive information on the youth to help bring them safely home in the event of wandering or other contact.

Sara – NATF is developing an Integration Plan for when refugees & immigrants come to our community, how to get them best connected to services. They are also working on a civic engagement piece through Welcoming Cities.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2018

Respectfully Submitted:
Jenni Ryan,
Lancaster County Human Services