

City of Lawrence
Social Service Funding Advisory Board Meeting
April 26, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Burdett Loomis, Ranelle Fischer, Alice Lieberman,
Galenea Miller, Steven Davis, Felecia Cunningham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Criqui

STAFF PRESENT: Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager; Kevyn Gero,
Accreditation Coordinator

PUBLIC PRESENT: Colby Wilson

Call to Order

Loomis called the meeting to order.

Introductions

The Board went around and made introductions.

Approve Minutes

A motion to approve minutes from March 9, 2017 was made by Davis and seconded by Fischer. The motion passed 6-0.

Review Annual Report

The Board reviewed the report and suggested minor changes to the language. With those changes, a motion was made by Davis and seconded by Lieberman to approve the report. The motion passed 6-0.

Review Applications for 2018 Funding

The Board discussed any ex-parte communications. Loomis asked if there is a general policy for boards regarding ex-parte communication.

The Board disclosed their ex-parte communications on the record so that everyone had access to the information provided. Lieberman received two correspondence emails. One asking for more information on what the Board is looking for in their decision-making process. Lieberman replied that the Board makes decisions based on the application materials submitted.

The other Board members also received the email, but did not respond.

Davis noted that he has close friends working at the Willow Domestic Violence Center.

Fischer serves on the Board for Boys and Girls Club and United Way.

Miller has friends that work at Just Food and East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN).

Loomis' wife has served on the Board for Van Go, Inc.

Lieberman has friends that work at Van Go, Inc. and is a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Just Food. Her husband donates to the Ballard Center.

Toomay discussed the status of the 2018 operating budget. The City Manager's recommended budget allocation for social services will be announced at the City Commission meeting May 9. Therefore at this point there is not an allocation amount for either the General Fund or for the Special Alcohol Fund.

Davis asked how the funds are allocated and if the amount allocated is set by ordinance or if it is discretionary. Toomay gave a history of Special Alcohol funds and the distribution of those funds. She also discussed charter ordinance 33.

Davis asked why the Arts Center request and the Children's Choir request were included in the requests. Toomay replied that they requested funds through the outside agency process for general funds. They were notified about the transient guest tax grant for arts and culture, but elected to apply through this process.

Loomis indicated that it was the role of the Board to provide the City Commission with recommendations on how to allocate these funds. He also noted that there are many duplicate services.

Cunningham noted that United Way is trying to get organizations to collaborate instead of duplicating services.

Loomis indicated that the Board should start discussing each application and elected to begin with Alcohol Fund applications.

Alcohol Fund Discussion

Bert Nash

Loomis noted that this is a rather large request and has a long history. Lieberman added that they support mental health. Davis indicated that it closely aligns with Charter Ordinance 33.

Toomay outlined the history of Bert Nash WRAP program funding. It was a three legged stool with the City, County, and School District. County still provides funding; however, the School District does not provide funding. Two years ago the City included this request with the other outside agencies.

The Board noted what appeared to be high lobbying expense listed in their 990 and decided to follow-up with them regarding that expenditure.

Lieberman asked about liquidity ratios. Toomay explained what the different levels of liquidity meant.

Boys and Girls Club

The Board noted that application indicates that pledges and fees are down. They also noted that it is a well-developed program and serves many clients. The Board added that they have a high volume operation and do not turn down people.

The Board also noted that they are engaged in the community. They did ask how a reduction in funding would impact the program noting that in 2017 they received \$98,372 and in 2018 they are requesting \$107,100 about a \$9,000 increase.

It was noted that Boys and Girls Club's next big fundraising campaign will be for the new teen center located next to the College and Career Center. It was noted that a reduction in funding would lead to either serving the same number of kids with less targeted programming or serve less kids with the same robust program.

DCCCA, Inc.

The Board noted that there was a significant increase requested for the First Steps at Lake View program. They also indicated that this was a rather large organization with a large amount of assets and this request was a rather small portion.

The Board also indicated that they have collaborated with other agencies for mental health services and that they provide services that have been impacted by Medicaid cuts.

Douglas County Child Development Association

The Board noted that they are able to leverage significant funds from other sources but that they were reliant upon other fundraising. They also noted that this is a new applicant with a new program.

The Board had a few questions about duplicative services and the difficulty of talking about outcomes. However, the Board did indicate a linkage with Charter Ordinance 33 and indicated that this was a needed service in the community.

Health Care Access, Inc.

The Board noted that they also have a General Fund request as well as the Special Alcohol Fund request. They also indicated that they were not requesting additional funding in 2018.

Heartland Medical Clinic, Inc.

The Board noted that they were requesting a significant increase in funds from 2017 to 2018. They also noted that last year they requested General Fund dollars but only requested Special Alcohol Funds this year.

The Board requested staff follow-up with Heartland for further explanation of the requested increase.

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc.

The Board noted that the data is statewide and not local. The Board would like to see more local information and less statewide information. They noted that the program is well developed and the funds will support a Match Support Specialist.

Mark Gordy, Area Manager, with Big Brothers Big Sisters noted that a reduction in funding would require the agency to either scale back current services or serve fewer children.

Lawrence Alcohol Recovery House, Inc. (Hearthstone)

The Board noted that the program targets clients with high needs of alcohol recovery services. The Board also noted that they are a Douglas County based organization and serves about 75 clients.

The Board noted that they fall within the Medicaid void and that this small organization is very focused on providing services.

Lawrence Community Shelter, Inc.

The Board indicated that they would table discussion on Lawrence Community Shelter until the General Fund discussion and talk about the two application together at that point.

The Willow Domestic Violence Center

The Board noted that the Willow was requesting fewer funds than last year. The program that funds are being requested for is an arts based program.

The Board also noted that they have a General Fund request and had a few questions about how this particular program aligned with Charter Ordinance 33.

Van Go, Inc.

The Board noted that Van Go, Inc. has been in the community now for 20 years. They also noted that the job skills program serves 100 at-risk teens annually. The Board noted the strong narrative provided throughout the application.

The Board took a 10 minute break.

General Fund Discussion

Boys & Girls Club

The Board discussed past funding and the potential cuts to the agency's AmeriCorps funding. They also noted that this program aligns with the City's strategic plan.

Communities in Schools of Mid-America, Inc.

The Board noted the wrap around services provided by this program. They also noted that statistics provided were on a national basis and not local. They also discussed the number of students served and the collaboration with other programs.

Douglas County CASA, Inc.

The Board highlighted that this program is well established and does not duplicate services with other organizations. They also noted the collaboration with other agencies.

Douglas County Child Development Association

The Board noted that the requested funding is a large portion of the overall funding and that there appeared to be some overlap with other programs.

Douglas County Dental Clinic, Inc.

The Board indicated that is program provides access to basic needs and that the request is relatively small compared to the overall budget. They Board also noted that there are not duplicating services provided by other agencies.

Health Care Access, Inc.

The Board noted that requested funds are proposed to be used for general personnel and not for a specific program.

Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc. (HCCI)

The Board noted that this program was unique and not duplicated by other agencies. They also noted that this program helps people consolidate and

understand their debts and aligns with the priorities of the City Commission. Additionally, the requested amount funds the entire local program.

Just Food of Douglas County, KS Inc.

The Board noted the need for this type of service in the community. They also noted that the request is for a small portion of the overall budget.

Kansas Big Brother Big Sisters, Inc.

The Board noted that the data is statewide and not local. They Board would like to see more local information and less statewide information.

Lawrence Arts Center, Inc.

The Board noted that the use for the requested funds could have been more explicitly stated. Additionally, the Board questioned if they were the best Board to review the application. Noting that there may be other grant opportunities available that have a better fit.

Lawrence Children's Choir, Inc.

The Board had some questions about if they were the best Board to review the application or there were other grants that would better align with the purpose of the program.

Lawrence Community Food Alliance

The Board indicated that this may be a duplication of service and had a few questions about the impact of the program.

Lawrence Community Shelter, Inc.

The Board noted the importance of this service within the community but had some concerns with capacity of the organization to operate an auxiliary shelter. They also noted that some of these services were duplicated with other agencies. The Board also had questions about the current financial standing and questioned if now was an appropriate time to expand services.

Senior Resource Center for Douglas County, Inc.

The Board noted the importance of this program but had questions about if this is program was duplicated by other agencies or if it helped compliment other agency programs. They also wanted to know more about how the program was being funded.

Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County

The Board noted that this program does not duplicate services and aligns with the City's strategic plan. They also noted that it serves a small number of clients but that it was a high quality program.

TFI Family Services, Inc.

The Board noted that this was a unique program and that services were not being duplicated by other agencies. They also noted that it aligned with the City's strategic plan.

The Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center

The Board noted that the requested funds were going to be used to fund a position. They also noted the agency's collaboration with other agencies within the community.

The Salvation Army of Douglas County

The Board noted that this program was a high priority and that bus passes are needed by multiple agencies. The Board recommended moving this request to the transit fund to better align service with funding mechanism.

The Board noted the importance of the Pathway to Hope program in that it helps people who are homeless become self-sufficient. The Board noted that no 990 has been filed.

The Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center

The Board noted the importance of having this service in the community and that the services aligned with the City's strategic plan.

The Shelter, Inc.

The Board noted the collaboration between The Shelter and other agencies within the community.

The Willow Domestic Violence Center

The Board noted the alignment between the services provided and the City's strategic plan but did note that the application had an error with the percentage of program costs being requested. The percentage did not align with the anticipated program revenues provided.

Van Go, Inc.

The Board discussed the program and noted that it was unique and is not duplicated by other agencies within the community.

Warm Hearts of Douglas County, Inc.

The Board noted the collaboration between various agencies and Warm Hearts for the requested program. They also noted that this program provides families with basic needs.

Women's Fresh Start Program

The Board indicated that this was a new program and similar to a program in Kansas City. The Board noted the low number of clients being served and therefore had some questions about the level of impact of the program.

Next Meeting—May 18, 2017

The Board will make allocation recommendations to the City Commission for Special Alcohol Funds and General Funds.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Fischer and seconded by Lieberman. The motion passed 6-0.