

Observer Report

Housing & Community Development Act Committee & Mental Health Board Meeting

Date: March 16, 2021

Observer: Pat Blumen

Meeting Began: 7:05pm (On Zoom as required and approved by all present)

Meeting Ended: 8:10pm

Aldermen Present: Rainey (Chair), Wilson, Simmons.

HCDA Members Present: Wang Su, Rodriguez, Ohanian (Quorum for HCDA)

MHB Members Present: Carpenter, Ziaya, (7:14 Johnson) (No Quorum for MHB)

Staff Present: Sarah Flax, Jessica Wingader

--PUBLIC INPUT OF THE DRAFT 2020 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

No Public Comment was received. Vote to close hearing unanimously approved by HCDA.

--VOTE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF CAPER BY CITY COUNCIL AT MARCH 22, 2021 MEETING

HCDA members unanimously approved for introduction at City Council.

--REALLOCATION OF UNEXENDED FY2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO CARES ACT AMENDMENT FOR USE IN FY 2021

Approval for discussion.

Basically adjusts numbers to reflect actual CDBG amount received on 2/25/21 and transfers \$124,733 (unused Admin) and \$20,000 (returned CJE) to Public Service CARES Act 2021. Now need 30-day hearing because of significant change to numbers. Combining MHB and CDBG dollars allows more spending flexibility due to timing of receipt of dollars. Only MHB \$ can be used for support, so will be used first as CDBG \$ comes in later.

\$283,576 2021 CDBG

\$763,373 2021 MHB

\$124,733 Reallocation

\$1,171,682 Available for open application process

Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION & VOTE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2021 ACTION PLAN AND AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL

--Timelines:

4/12/21: 2021 Action Plan, Recommendation to reallocate unexpended 2020 CDBG funds to CARES Act Amendment to expand available CDBG Public Services funding to respond to Corona Virus, and Amended CPP to City Council for approval.

4/26/21: 2021 – submit 2021 Action Plan to HUD.

Unanimously approved.

Note: Evanston is the 1st trying to do this. There has been great turnover at HUD with many new inexperienced people who are not equipped to provide interim guidance in this process. However,

Evanston has been advised to go forward with the above process.

UPDATE ON THE ALLOCATION PROCESS FOR MHB/CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDS

--Criteria for funding by category (Case Management, Safety Net & Support) for the unified allocation process for MHB and CDBG Public Services funding to address inequities due to systemic barriers that impact lower income residents, particularly people of color, who are disparately impacted by Covid-19. The process implements recommendations made by the Social Services Core Committee to focus resources on underserved segments using a client-centered service delivery Model, & provides criteria for evaluating funding requests for CM, SN & S services. It can also strengthen partnerships between agencies serving targeted clients & enable more effective assessment of outcomes & accomplishments by reducing or eliminating duplicate counting of beneficiaries. Assessment will be based on people helped rather than services delivered.

--**CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES:** Robust case management is an effective way to enable clients with complex needs & multiple challenges to achieve wellbeing & self-sufficiency. The case management relationship provides a plan with a single point of accountability to coordinate services that clients are unable to access for themselves; services are tailored to the varying needs of each client/household to achieve measurable outcomes. It typically requires frequent meetings at the onset that taper off as participants stabilize. Case management programs include relationship-building techniques such as trauma-informed care & strengths-based interviewing. A hallmark is documentation of goals, connections to additional services and documentation of outcomes.

--**SAFETY NET SERVICES:** To address devastating economic & social disruption caused by the pandemic relating to housing, employment, health care, food, transportation, dependent care & other needs.

--**SUPPORT SERVICES:** All other services can be considered support or enrichment to help clients thrive. (2016-2020) historic percentages: CM 24%, SN 14%, S 62%.

Proposed 2021: CM 40%, SN 40%, S 20%.

The amount of funding allocated by category can be “retooled” when applications are received.

Under the restructure, SS will be funded on a fee-for-service basis to address the needs of individual clients in CM relationships, building equity for underserved residents into the funding process.

Timeline:

end March: request applications from agencies.

end April: applications received.

2nd Council mtg. in May recommendations for awards.

Start releasing funds.

Note: There was some concern that the amount allocated to S was insufficient due to historic %ages. Staff addressed the concerns stating goal was to achieve a greater depth of service to fewer individuals than in the past. In addition, in past there was no way to break out unduplicated clients. Also, concern that staff assist agencies in defining outcomes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1 Carlis Sutton raised concern for small elderly, especially minority, landlords needing more assistance as tenants default on rent and no evictions permitted. Urges city not to hire another staffer for standards compliance.

HCDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/16/21 & 12/15/20.

--Unanimously approved following correction by Wilson for 12/15/20 mtg.

MHB APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/16/21 & 2/20/20.

--No vote taken as no quorum.

STAFF REPORTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:10PM.

Next joint meeting of HCDA & MHB will be scheduled in 4/21.

Comments: Multiple expressions from staff of appreciation of staff regarding their hard work.