



King County

Community Services Division

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Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board (RHSCOB) and Veterans Citizen Oversight Board (VCOB) Joint Levy Oversight Board Meeting Summary

September 25, 2014 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

King County Chinook Building, 4A Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kate Slaminko at 10:15 am.

Roll Call

Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board (RHSCOB) Members Present: Marilyn Cooks, Gary Haines, Kate Slaminko

RHSCOB Members Excused/Absent: Lynnette Jordan, Loran Lichty (Chair), David Ramsay (Vice-chair), Bonnie Sanders

Veterans Citizen Oversight Board (VCOB) Members Present, Jim Callow, Doug Hoople, Francisco Ivarra (Chair), Robert Stephens, Jr., Curtis Thompson, Jaime Yslas

VCOB Members Excused/Absent: Stan Gunno, Kathy Lewis, Mary Kay Lewis, John Pruitt, Ray Tomlinson

King County Staff Present: Kaetlin Miller, Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC); Anne Meegan, PHSKC; Jon Hoskins, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Pat Lemus, DCHS; Terry Mark, DCHS; Laird Redway, DCHS; Dana Sawyers, DCHS

Guests: Dee Martindale, John Forsythe

Legislative Look Ahead to 2015

Terry Mark, Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) provided an overview of the upcoming 2015 legislative session.

Because state and federal funding makes up 70 percent of the department's budget, it is essential that DCHS work closely with the legislature and engage in budget and policy discussions now to inform the next session. The state session officially begins the second Monday of the month of January, runs for 105 days and ends on April 26. The DCHS currently has 16 state and 11 federal active legislative requests.

One issue of particular concern is the Washington State Legislature ban of the practice called "psychiatric boarding" on August 7, 2014. The Legislature ruled that placing patients in



emergency rooms without mental health treatment violates the Involuntary Treatment Act. This is a major funding issue in our state. Ms. Mark commented that at a recent King County Regional Policy Committee meeting where the 2013 Veterans and Human Services (VHS) Levy Annual Report was presented, a committee member asked if Levy dollars could be used to offset some of the “psychiatric boarding” costs. Terry Mark, presenting on behalf of the levy, explained that the levy provides funding for prevention services for mental health and is not available to offset these costs.

Terry closed by offering tools for board members to keep abreast of legislative issues. The Washington State legislative website is located at: www.leg.wa.gov . More information can be found on TVW on cable and by calling the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Discussion

- Curtis Thompson offered to provide a link to board members to sign up to receive alerts related to veterans issues: (Staff note: Curtis provided the following link to receive alerts from the state legislature on veterans issues: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=wdva&A=1>)
- The levy being flexible local dollars is able to fill funding gaps that federal and state funding cannot.
- The levy’s recent expansion of veterans’ eligibility is encouraging to state legislators who are having preliminary discussions about revising the state veterans’ eligibility language. The language being considered would allow counties to make their own decisions about veteran eligibility.

Review of Joint Meeting Summary

The June 26, 2014 Veterans and Human Services (VHS) Levy Joint Oversight Board meeting summary was approved as written.

RHSCOB Chair Highlights – Kate Slaminko

- The RHSCOB met in August at the Crisis Clinic King County 2-1-1 call center site. Board members had an opportunity to hear a presentation from Executive Director Kathleen Southwick. They then moved to the call center where they were able to listen in on client calls to 2-1-1 to better understand the nature of the calls received and how staff responds to the information requests from callers.

VCOB Chair Highlights – Francisco Ivarra

- At the July VCOB meeting Leo Flor of the Northwest Justice project reviewed his presentation on military discharge with the board, in particular characterizations of service. Levy staff presented a proposal to modify eligibility criteria for the Veterans Levy to include “Other than Honorable” and “Uncharacterized” characterizations of service. Board members agreed with the recommendation. Revised language will be included in 2015 contracts.
- The board received a presentation on the evaluation of the Veterans Aerospace /Manufacturing Employment Pilot Project (AMP) that was funded out of unspent funds from the first Levy. The AMP services were provided to 217 clients in 2013, 144 had secured either full or part-time employment for an overall success rate of 74.5 percent. The AMP model is now being used within the King County Veterans Program.

Committee Update – Fiscal and Evaluation Committee

The Joint Levy Fiscal and Evaluation Committee met in July to discuss the fiscal and performance information on the programs recommended to receive unspent 2013 Levy dollars. The committee members agree with the recommendation to provide unspent Human Services Levy funds to the DCHS/ Employment and Education Resources to provide services to Nurse Family Partnership clients and to support the King County 2-1-1 information line. Unspent 2013 Veterans Levy funds will help support the Regional Veterans Initiative.

Staff Report

- The 2013 VHS Levy Annual Report was approved by Council on September 22, 2014. Hard copies of the report were made available to board members at the meeting.
- The 2014 Veterans and Human Services Levy Mid-Year Report is currently under development. The draft report will soon be reviewed with the Fiscal and Evaluation Committee and is due to the DCHS Director's Office on October 22, 2014.
- Due to the budget shortfall this year a very difficult decision was made to eliminate the Community Services Division (CSD) Director position. Pat Lemus, CSD Deputy Director now reports directly to Adrienne Quinn, DCHS Director.
- New board member orientation will be held Monday, September 29, 2014 at 10am.

Old Business

- Robert Stephens, Jr. is encouraging the City of Seattle to activate a department for veteran's affairs.
- Curtis and Doug are VCOB reviewers on the 2014 Operating and Rental support RFP and Capital Housing RFP panels respectively. Thanks to both of you for taking this work on.
- Doug provided an update to the group on the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention workgroup. The final report will be send to the board when it is approved.

New Business/ Future Agenda Items

- None

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Public Records Act (PRA) training

OPMA and PRA training sessions were provided for all board members.

Public Comment

- The DAJD workgroup was very well done. Board members were pleased with the opportunity to provide input.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.