

# **MINUTES OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**

Meeting Held March 25, 2008  
City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room,  
301 West Second Street Austin, Texas

- 1. Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting called to order at 1:40 pm by Chair, Council Member Lee Leffingwell.

Committee Members Present:

1. Council Member Lee Leffingwell
2. Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley
3. Council Member Mike Martinez

- 2. Approval of Minutes for the Subcommittee Meeting held Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

Council Member Lee Leffingwell moved to approve minutes, motion seconded by Council Member Mike Martinez. Minutes unanimously approved.

- 3. Citizens Communication.**

Julia Spann, Chair of the Austin Area, Human Services Association, spoke about the importance of the continuation of the basic needs social service after the United Way funding changes. She expressed her gratitude to the City of Austin for offering a financial assistance in the interim period.

- 4. Review Collaborative Work and Response to United Way funding changes (David Lurie, Acting Assistant City Manager)**

David Lurie, Acting Assistant City Manager presented on the impact of United Way Funding changes on local social service providers and funding partners consensus about critical needs services funding. The Council action for this review was not required. The following services will be funded by City of Austin in the total amount of \$204,500:

1. Shelter & Transitional Housing
  - a. Safe Place (\$33,000)
  - b. Salvation Army (\$108,000)
  - c. VinCare (\$13,500)
2. Basic Needs
  - a. Caritas (\$27,500)
  - b. Wright House (\$22,500)

For the FY 09 Budget, City needs to assess currently funded priorities and gaps with funding partners, solicit feedback from stakeholders, review best practices, and conduct an impact analysis. In addition, HHSD will review

performance measures and contractor compliance and incorporate this analysis in the 2009 contract.

**Councilmember Martinez questions/concerns**

1. Asked whether we had a plan for future funding for the agencies that were affected by the United Way funding changes.

David Lurie responded that we established partnerships with Travis County and other local agencies that would work with us on a strategy for the future funding.

**Councilmember Leffingwell questions/concerns**

1. Stated that our funding priority for the upcoming budget year should be safety net services.

The Council action for this review was not required.

**5. Consider Recommendation for Council Action for Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and University of Texas for development, implementation, and analysis of a survey regarding solicitation/ panhandling on roadways, and take appropriate action (David Lurie, Acting Assistant City Manager & Dr. Pat Wong, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas)**

David Lurie, Acting Assistant City Manager presented on the interlocal agreement between City of Austin and University of Texas for development, implementation, and analysis of a survey regarding solicitation/ panhandling on roadways. The purpose of the survey is to develop a baseline of information regarding solicitation. This information will provide a basis for data-driven decisions for City Management and Council to address roadside solicitation. The interviewers will be trained by UT, and APD will assist providing security if needed.

Dr. Pat Wong, LBJ School of Public Affairs, stated that interviewers would be selected based on their experience and interest in this area. They would be graduate students from the UT School of Social Work and LBJ School of Public Policy. Dr. Wong identified the survey process which would:

- Identify sample recruitment sites.
- Calculate sample size and construction.
- Confirm sample design with City.
- Design research instrument.
- Confirm instrument design with City.
- Recruit and train interviewers.
- Conduct interviews.
- Present final report.

**Councilmember Leffingwell questions/concerns**

1. Expressed a concern whether another survey was needed.

**Councilmember Martinez questions/concerns**

1. Expressed a concern that the survey might distort an image of the profile of people that solicited on the streets.

Dr. Pat Wong responded that the survey team would be extremely careful with collecting, processing, and presenting data, and that the City Council would be briefed along the way.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley to recommend approval to the full Council with the condition that there would be a report back to the subcommittee before going forward with the survey. SECOND by Council Member Mike Martinez. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**6. Update on activities at the University Medical Center at Brackenridge, charity trends in Central Texas, and academic medicine in Central Texas (Greg Hartman, Senior Vice President University Medical Center at Brackenridge, Dr. Sam Shomaker, Dean of Austin Programs, UT Medical Branch)**

Greg Hartman, Senior Vice President University Medical Center at Brackenridge, presented on the current Seton's capacity expansion activities and changes in the healthcare safety net. He briefed the Subcommittee on the psychiatric emergency care update, trauma expansion, growing population and utilization rates, and care for the uninsured in Central Texas.

Dr. Sam Shomaker, Dean of Austin Programs, UTMB, presented on the academic medicine and the UMCB Campus. He provided an update on the Clinical Education Center at Brackenridge, and briefed the Subcommittee on the academic medicine in Central Texas and UMCB.

The Council action for this review was not required.

**7. Briefing on Street Smarts Task Force Report (Sara Krause, Chair City of Austin Street Smarts Task Force)**

Sara Krause, Chair City of Austin Street Smarts Task Force, presented the final report of Street Smarts Task Force. She briefed the Subcommittee on the Task Force purpose and goals, statistics, reasons to promote the bicycle use, and Task Force recommendations. The recommendations addressed the bicycling infrastructure and facilities, education and promotion, safe behavior

and law enforcement, and advisory Bicycle and Pedestrian Board or Commission establishment.

The Council action for this review was not required.

- 8. Consider items for next meeting scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 or at the call of the Subcommittee Chair.**

No new items were considered at that time.

- 9. Adjourn. There being no further business, MOTION by Chair, Council Member Leffingwell to adjourn; SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**