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11-18-04
#9-10-11

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Lurie, Director
DATE: November 1, 2004
SUBJECT: 2005 Social Service Contract Items on November 18, 2004 Council Agenda

Three items (9, 10, and 11) appear on the Council's November 18, 2004 agenda requesting Council approve a resolution authorizing execution of the 2005 social service contracts in three categories. The attached PowerPoint slides with notes are from our presentation to the Council's Healthcare Subcommittee on October 26, 2005. Slides 2-4 were repeated from a presentation to the subcommittee on May 25, 2004.

The 2005 contracts are based on the Social Services Investment Plan (SSIP) developed by city and county staff after input from numerous sources. Investment process concerns were initially brought forward during the Community Action Network (CAN) Funding Forum held in May of 2003. Various CAN Resource Council and subcommittee meetings, various community planning meetings over the last two years, and input from providers of social services, including the Austin Area Human Services Association (AAHSA), resulted in the SSIP presented to the Travis County Commissioners Court at a worksession on May 13, 2004, and to the City Council Healthcare Subcommittee on May 25, 2004. Feedback from community groups and elected officials resulted in a comprehensive framework that increases flexibility and maintains critical services. The framework consists of three categories of investments: safety net/infrastructure, coordinated/integrated delivery systems, and component services of continuums of care.

Item #9 addresses the safety net/infrastructure category of the investment framework. Safety net/infrastructure agencies provide services that stabilize or provide acute treatment/intervention services to meet urgent health, safety and subsistence needs of individuals who have the fewest resources or are least able to secure services or to persons who are victims of violence, abuse or neglect. These will be long-term partners who will have one-year contracts with six annual renewals. The City has contracted with these agencies for many years and the infrastructure investment makes it unlikely that other agencies will be providing these services in the near future. Renewals, however, are not guaranteed and the City could decide not to renew a contract if alternative resources become available.

Item #10 addresses the coordinated/integrated delivery systems and component services of continuums of care. One-year contracts are recommended with three annual renewals. Coordinated/integrated delivery systems is an investment category for purchasing and delivering services that improve conditions, access, quality of services, administrative efficiency, and outcomes. These delivery systems are a product of an inclusive, informed community process, with a consistent vision for each system. The respective systems are nurtured by ongoing community planning processes and continuous quality improvements. Some systems also involve multiple service providers with a fiscal/administrative lead.

Component services of continuums of care are individual services that fill needs within continuums of care that have been identified through community processes. These services meet identified community needs but have not been developed and coordinated to become part of an integrated delivery system, with ongoing community planning. The long-term goal is for the majority of these services to become part of an integrated delivery system.

Item #11 provides for One-year supplemental contracts with agencies providing safety net/infrastructure services and SafePlace using supplemental funds provided by Council during the 2001-2002 economic downturn and renewed at a reduced level in 2003-2004 and extended in FY 2004-2005. This year the community requested a change to the Basic Needs Supplemental program to allow for a "Best Single Source" pilot project as outlined in the RCA. Agencies funded in this area last year accepted reduced funding this year in order to help fund this pilot project.

Should you have any questions regarding these RCAs or if you would like to arrange a personal visit prior to the Council session, please contact my office at 972-5010, or Vince Cobalis, HHSD Asst. Director for Human Services, at 972-5011.

Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation to Healthcare Subcommittee

Cc: Toby Hammet Futrell, City Manager
Chief Michael McDonald, Acting Assistant City Manager
Vince Cobalis, HHSD Asst. Director for Human Services