



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Meeting Held Monday, May 4th, 2015
City Hall, 301 WEST SECOND STREET, in the Council Chambers,
301 West Second Street, Austin. TX

Call Meeting to Order at 4:05 pm.

Committee Members Present:

1. *Council Member Ora Houston, Chair*
2. *Council Member Kathie Tovo, Vice Chair*
3. *Council Member Delia Garza*
4. *Council Member Ellen Troxclair*

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes

Council Member Garza moved approval of the Minutes of April 6, 2015, seconded by Council Member Troxclair, motion passes 3-0, with CM Tovo off the dais.

Citizen Communication: General

2. **Speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed three minutes to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.**
Angela Jo Medina, Rae Nadler-Olenick, Linda Greene, Paula Rojas, and Tod Marvin.

Items for Committee Consideration

3. **Consider and develop recommendations regarding the approval of a resolution directing the City Manager to review options and consider developing a benefits program proposal for applied behavioral analysis benefits as part of the City employee benefits package in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 proposed budget.**

Staff provided benchmark data from other cities, cost projections and suggested "a pilot program to acquire actual plan costs..." Committee members asked when the new benefit would potentially begin, staff responded January 1, 2016.

Eight citizen speakers provided testimony, and data, in support of Applied Behavioral Analysis treatment, including Shelly Sully, Lisa Whitted, Ann Hart, Jacquie Benestante, Ron Lucey, Jon Hockenyos, and Rene Craft.

Motion by Council Member Houston, a recommendation to the full Council, that the City Manager include the concept of Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy in the 2015-2016

budget and to bring forth additional funding level options. Seconded by Council Member Garza, motion carries 4-0.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a staff briefing on the City of Austin's efforts regarding "rogue" boarding homes (Carl Smart, Austin Code Department; Paul Tomasovic, Division Manager, Code; Jerry Rusthoven, Manager, Planning and Zoning Department; Vince Delisi, Assistant Division Manager, Health and Human Services Department).

Two citizen speakers provided testimony. Joanne Bartz spoke in favor of creating a boarding home ordinance based on HB-216; Jason Howell spoke against regulations.

Staff provided additional information requested by the Committee at the April 6, 2015 meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding a presentation from the Sobriety Center Working Group.

One citizen signed up to speak on the item. Jason Howell spoke in favor of creating a sobriety center in Austin, TX.

Andy Brown and Judge Nancy Hohengarten presented the Sobriety Center Implementation Report, including testimonies by APD, and Seton Health Care.

Council Member Tovo made a motion to recommend that the City Manager work with Travis County and other relevant parties to determine a location and develop a governing structure and funding plan for a Sobriety Center based on the report. Seconded by Council Member Houston, motion passes unanimously 4-0.

Public Hearings:

6. **Conduct a public hearing regarding the initiation of a code amendment to mitigate the effects of smoke emissions from restaurants and mobile food vendors near residentially zoned areas.**

Six citizen speakers provided testimony. Carter Hobbs, Skeeter Miller, Gerald Stone, Darryl Wittle, Hoover Alexander, Scott Grumbles, all against potential ordinance requiring installation of smoke scrubbers.

Staff presented on nationwide practices in regulating barbecue smoke.

Future Items

7. Discussion of future agenda items

Some of the items discussed by the Committee members for the June 1st meeting included; Autism, HB 216 – "Rogue" Boarding Homes, Sobriety Center Working Group, and a Circus Animal Device Ordinance.

Other topics mentioned during the March 16th, 2015 Health and Human Services Committee included: follow-up on the "rogue" boarding homes; additional information from the Sobriety Center Working Group; additional information from staff on barbecue smoke effects; the use of painful devices on circus animals; children's mental health.

Adjourn at 7:42 pm.