



Cambridge Human Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019
5:30 – 7:30 PM
Citywide Senior Center
806 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Commissioners present: Julie Asher, Duane Brown, Christine Elow, Khari Milner, Nan Stone, Rachel Weinstein

Regrets: Christopher Hall, Bran Shim, Rev. Lorraine Thornhill

Presenter(s): Nadia Davila, DHSP Office of Workforce Development Youth Services Specialist

Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) staff present: Janice Alger, Mike Payack (recorder), Ellen Semonoff

- I. Welcome, Networking, and Dinner
 - Ellen Semonoff welcomed members of the Commission and started a round of introductions
- II. Review of Learnings from the Pilot Session of DHSP's Next Up Program
 - Nadia Davila, DHSP Office of Workforce Development Youth Services Specialist, had previously presented at the September 13, 2018 meeting of the Human Services Commission (along with George Hinds, DHSP's Director of Youth Employment) to discuss Youth Employment, including the then-upcoming pilot Next Up program
 - The pilot session of Next Up has wrapped up and Nadia has returned to talk with the Commission about what was learned from the pilot
 - The program places a focus on career exploration using field visits
 - "feeling it, not just seeing it"
 - The program will be building in social worker/therapist support for future sessions
- III. FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Planning
 - We are assuming the City of Cambridge will receive level CDBG funding for FY2020 based on guidance from National Community Development Association (NCDA)
 - In FY2019, the Commission recommended granting a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the level funding amount for all existing satisfactorily-performing CDBG subgrantees
 - At the February 14, 2019 meeting of the HSC, Commissioners recommended the following FY2020 allocation plan:
 - Offer renewal funding to existing subgrantees at the FY2019 level (6% COLA carries over) through a renewal application process
 - Issue RFP for up to \$90,000, contingent upon HUD funding, with more details to be determined at the March 14, 2019 meeting of the Commission
 - At tonight's meeting, regarding the RFP, the Commission determined:

- It will be open to existing CDBG subrecipients and other eligible agencies operating within Cambridge
- It will ask applicants to describe how CDBG funding would enhance existing services by providing mental health or substance abuse services within any locally-defined CDBG priority area
 - Children, youth, or family support
 - Domestic violence
 - Linguistic minorities
 - Homelessness and homelessness prevention
 - Emergency food resources
 - Elderly and individuals with special needs
 - Employment services
- Special consideration will be given to programs serving emerging adults (18-24-year-olds / those who have recently aged out of youth programs)

IV. Upcoming Schedule:

- Mike Payack announced that the next meeting of the Human Services Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019

V. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Payack, DHSP/Planning & Development