



Cambridge Human Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2016
5:30 – 7:30pm
Citywide Senior Center
806 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Commissioners present: Christine Elow, Christopher R. Hall, Anna Leslie, Sumbul Siddiqui, Nan Stone, Rev. Lorraine Thornhill

DHSP staff present: Janice Alger, Mike Payack (recorder), Ellen Semonoff

Ellen Semonoff welcomed the members of the Human Services Commission (HSC) and thanked them for their flexibility. This meeting was originally scheduled for April 14, but had to be rescheduled due to quorum issues.

Mike Payack proposed that the Commission attend the Neighborhood Service Project Showcase at the Main Library on May 11, 2016, in lieu of the regularly scheduled May meeting. All members present agreed to this proposal.

Ellen Semonoff reminded Commissioners that the City of Cambridge's FY2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation is \$2,511,259. This represents a \$35,428 (or 1.4%) cut from FY2016. This translates to a \$5,314 cut to the portion of the allocation that the City dedicates to Public Services (or Human Services). However, due to the closure of former CDBG recipient Centro Latino this past fall, the Commission has the rare opportunity to decide what to do with some extra funding, in this case \$18,000.

The Commission recommended conducting a formal process for the FY2017 CDBG grant cycle, whereby existing satisfactorily-performing grant recipients are invited to renew their current award. In addition, the Commission decided to issue a closed mini-RFP for three \$6,000 grants (or four \$4,500 grants) since Centro Latino would not be applying for renewal funding.

Ellen Semonoff continued her overview of DHSP's annual budget, which she began at the March 10 HSC meeting. This second part of the overview included descriptions of the following divisions of DHSP: Agenda for Children (Literacy & OST), Baby U & Center for Families, Community Engagement Team, Inclusion Initiative, Family Policy Council (formerly Kids' Council), King Open Extended Day, Childcare & Family Support Services, Community Schools, and Youth Programs.

Janice Alger reminded Commissioners that, in addition to the Department's annual budget of approximately \$25,000,000, DHSP also receives approximately \$7,000,000 in grants annually. Grant sources include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Mike Payack reiterated that the Commission will be attending the Community Action Project Showcase at the Main Library on May 11, 2016, instead of the regularly scheduled May meeting. Mike will forward more details to the Commission when available.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Payack
Planner/Contracts Manager
DHSP/Planning & Development