

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

10:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

The Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 10:02 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Phyllis Viagran, *Chair Pro-Tem*
Ana Sandoval, *Chair*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Teri Castillo *Member*

Members Absent: Mario Bravo, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the June 14, 2022, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

Absent: Bravo

Public Comments

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Spending Framework for Non-Profit and Social Services. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Human Services Director, provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery priority investments, competitive funding process, policy directions and next steps in the process. Woosley reviewed the funding priority investments in the non-profit social services categories and associated funding for each category. She discussed the funding timeline for the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the evaluation and award process.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how the RFP insured that council districts with the highest needs would be addressed. Woosley stated that staff would identify those council districts and staff would review submissions.

Councilmember Castillo requested that non-profit funding be considered for reproductive services organizations to support the community and those impacted by COVID-19.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how the proposed solicitation would expand services provided by the Department of Human Services. Woosley stated that the program would expand services outreach and compliment current services provided.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that his council district would be interested in co-hosting workshops on senior and other services to residents in his community. Councilmember McKee- Rodriguez requested that transportation to medical facilities and utility services be considered.

Chair Pro-Tem Viagran stated that she supported the Item and that the funding supported partners in the community.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye:** Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo
- Absent:** Bravo

3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Spending Framework for Senior Services. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Human Services Director Melody Woosley provided an overview of the ARPA senior services program funding priority investments and program strategies, specifics of the competitive funding processes and release of RFP, policy direction, and funding timeline next steps to include the release of the RFP, evaluation process and contract approval by City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Pro-Tem Viagran asked if the RFP considered workforce readiness since many senior residents continued to work. Woosley stated that staff had identified workforce readiness as a continued requested service and would be included in the solicitation. Chair Pro-Tem Viagran stated that the digital divide was an issue that needed to be considered.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how specific needs such as transportation needs would be addressed in the solicitation. Woosley stated that the outreach and engagement process would be used to identify senior services needs and current services provided. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what direct financial services were encompassed in the RFP. Woosley provided clarification on services provided to include prescription assistance, financial assistance for housing and other services by partner organizations. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked that transportation services to medical facilities be considered in the solicitation process. Woosley stated that staff would conduct an analysis on providing transportation services.

Councilmember Castillo noted her support of the plan and noted that senior residents expressed support for physical activity services. Councilmember Castillo stated that transportation services were needed and asked if VIA Metropolitan Transit bus services could be considered. Woosley stated that the VIA Trans shuttles were active in providing transportation services.

Councilmember Castillo stated that there were many seniors in need of food services assistance but that many seniors did not qualify for Food Bank services. Woosley stated that there was a waiver process to apply for food assistance and that the City could consider using General Funds for food service delivery. Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on utility relief services available to senior residents. Woosley reviewed the process for providing utility assistance.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that she was supportive of the proposed services under the solicitation and suggested that senior physical activity services be conducted in an outside setting due to an increase in COVID cases. Woosley stated that the RFP process would address the usage of outside setting activities.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how the need for workforce assistance would be addressed. Woosley stated that coordination with current stakeholder agencies would be addressed and stated that additional research would be conducted by staff and provided to the Committee. Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification on services provided to senior resident caregivers. Woosley stated that there were current services available to include adult daycare options.

Councilmember Sandoval requested that DHS work with VIA to provide monthly bus passes to seniors at senior centers and senior living facilities. She also requested that VIA visit every senior living facility and provide seniors with monthly bus passes. She cautioned against

relying exclusively on VIATrans because of the program's limited eligibility requirements.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo
Absent: Bravo

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Pro-Tem Viagran adjourned the meeting at 10:47 AM.

Approved

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk