



Public Safety, Human Services, and Education Committee Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/PSHSE>

Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

June 12, 2014

Chair Woodards called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Council Committee Members Present: Campbell, Lonergan, and Woodards.

Council Committee Members Absent: Mayor Strickland.

Approval of May 22, 2014 Minutes

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Lonergan. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

State Legislature Impacts to Public Safety, Human Services, and Education

At approximately 4:37 p.m., Randy Lewis, Government Relations Officer, provided background information and reviewed the 2014 Legislative Agenda adopted by the City Council. He then reviewed actions taken and bills passed by the 2014 Washington State Legislature that relate to public safety, human services, and education, noting the items highlighted today may not appear in the 2014 Legislative Agenda adopted by Council but are of interest to this Committee or appear in the City's 2013-2014 Legislative Policy Manual. Mr. Lewis then reviewed the format of the items listed, including the bill number, three prime sponsors, a summary of the bill, and the code used for future reference. He concluded by reviewing bills related to community custody conditions for sex offenders, compliance with inspections of child care facilities, and expanded learning opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding the status of bills related to gangs, metal theft, and transportation; liquor tax; and potential impacts to the State General Fund, including items related to the McCleary decision, gain sharing, and fish consumption. To determine whether the topic should be added to the City's 2015 Legislative Agenda, Chair Woodards requested Mr. Lewis contact the City of Seattle and other jurisdictions who have implemented the Mental Health Sales Tax to explore whether they intend to request authorization to continue to use the supplanted Mental Health Chemical Dependency funding.

Domestic Violence Initiative

At approximately 5:04 p.m., Pam Duncan, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), acknowledged individuals working on the COURAGE domestic violence awareness initiative, including Kelly Crouch and Carol Hassard, NCS, Sherina James, Pierce County Commission Against Domestic Violence, and Dawn Schafer-Balgar, Dragonfly Centre. Ms. Duncan provided background information and reviewed the mission and program framework of the initiative, including identifying and defining the continuum of components to address domestic violence, identifying major needs, recognizing gaps and barriers in meeting needs, and planned events and projects. She then reviewed the initiative goals related to raising awareness, providing education, domestic violence prevention and intervention, and recovery and healing. Ms. Duncan concluded

by reviewing next steps. Discussion ensued regarding potential reasons for the City's high rate of domestic violence, age-appropriate education for youth, the importance of outreach to ensure citizens know who to call for services, the working definition of domestic violence, and the process for filing domestic violence reports.

Child Care Aware Updates

Christine Rosenquist, NCS, provided background information regarding Child Care Aware (CCA), including the program's creation and core services. Carmen Benscoter, NCS, reviewed the Building Connections with Tacoma Public Schools initiative, including next steps. Discussion ensued regarding the event locations and whether parents were involved in the project.

Michelle Roberts, NCS, reviewed the Community Cafes focused on literacy in the Hilltop community initiative, including graphic recordings and next steps. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Building Connections initiative is only with Tacoma Public Schools, whether CCA helps students that are homeschooled, grant funding, diversity among childcare providers, and the impact on childcare providers if Tacoma Public Schools increases enrollment in preschool programs. Chair Woodards requested staff work in conjunction with the Equity and Empowerment Initiative to help citizens who want to open childcare services. Council Member Lonergan requested additional information regarding demographics and geographic accessibility maps for childcare providers.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Assistant City Manager Tansy Hayward stated the recommended updates to the 2015-2020 Human Services Strategic Plan and report from the Human Services Commission will be moved from the June 26, 2014 meeting to the July 10, 2014 meeting. She then stated the YMCA of Pierce County's Community School Initiative and the Tacoma Police Department's Mental Health Co-Responder Program is scheduled for the July 10, 2014 meeting; however the Co-Responder program may be postponed. Chair Woodards requested staff move the YMCA presentation to the June 26, 2014 meeting if possible; and requested a written fireworks report from the Tacoma Police and Fire Departments, unless there is a compelling reason to present to the Committee on July 10, 2014.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.



Victoria Woodards, Chair



Linnea Meredith, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office