

Human Services Commission
Staff Report
June 9, 2020

Pandemic Response

Needless to say, much of our time has been spent on the community's response to the pandemic. In the county's emergency operations incident command structure, our department is serving as the incident commander and leading ESF-8 Health and Medical. I am serving as the lead for Mass Care/Human Services in ESF-6 and also functioning in ESF-7, 8, and 14. A crosswalk of our involvement in the emergency response is attached. For your situational awareness, I have copied the commission on multiple emails related to the pandemic response.

As ESF-6 lead, the Human Service Manager has organized five local funders (City, County, United Way, Community Foundation, and VU Foundation) in a collaborative called CoMoHelps (<http://comohelps.org>). Through this collaborative we have consolidated financial donations and volunteering for the COVID-19 response, under Leigh Kottwitz, Neighborhood Services Manager, as ESF- lead. Financial contributions are being routed to the Heart of Missouri United Way and the Community Foundation of Central Missouri. Nonprofit and governmental volunteer needs are posted, along with the opportunity for community members to sign up as unaffiliated volunteers for assignment as needed.

CoMoHelps also developed a single, joint application for nonprofits to submit requests for funding. This expedites access to support for nonprofits and allows us to coordinate funding used in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CoMoHelps collaborative meets daily to review and prioritize requests and to allocate funding. Our current focus is on funding services being provided in response to COVID-19. Requests for nonprofit sustainability are being referred to federal CARES Act programs and tabled for later consideration. Because this funding collaborative is so unique, we have received grants from state and national foundations. We are closely coordinating with the City's Housing Programs Division to provide additional rent/mortgage assistance in response to the pandemic. The Housing Programs Division has issued a RFP for these services utilizing CARES Act CDBG/HOME funding.

If you were not able to attend our CoMoHelps Nonprofits Partners Meeting held on May 29, here is a link to the video of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/faYW-wNBwa8>

CoMoHelps serves ESF-6/7/8/14.



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Our vision: Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.



FY2020 Contracts

MU has decided to close the MU Adult Day Connection due to the pandemic and the resulting budget shortfalls and safety issues. An acceptable interim report was submitted and a portion of the interim payment was approved. This leaves a balance of \$5,118 in contracted funds. We will likely use this balance to help cover the ongoing cost of providing portable toilets at Turning Point and Phoenix Programs in order to provide bathroom facilities for our unsheltered population. This contract would have been eligible for renewal next year, so the \$15,000 allocated to this contract will be added to this year's RFP amount.

The Boone Impact Group

- The development of the revised proposal forms and organization profile in our funding management system are on hold due to the pandemic, as is the process of collecting feedback about the draft revisions from providers. It is very unlikely we will have time to build the new forms in the AFF system prior to our RFP this year.
- Our project to develop common consumer level outcomes for contracted/funded services is still under way, but slowed by the pandemic. When developed, we will be sharing a draft of the outcomes with the commission and providers for feedback. I don't know if these will be ready in time for our RFP this year.
- The newest version of the [Boone Indicators Dashboard](#) has been released and now includes an actual dashboard interface, including aspirational community goals. We are pleased to have completed this phase of the revisions. Our next step will be to include objectives for these goals. We look forward to incorporating the aspirational community goals and objectives with the common outcomes in future proposal and report forms.
- The County's Community Health Fund is very likely to be discontinued due to the changes in the Boone Hospital lease. There is enough funding to maintain existing contracts through 2021. This will result in a loss of \$500,000 annually in health and human services funding in the community.
- The Heart of Missouri United Way is considering changing their funding period to the calendar year which would align with the City and County and facilitate increased coordination of funding.

Other Items

Short Term Rentals

- This item was tabled by city council again at its 6/1/20 meeting.

High Utilizers of Public Safety/Justice/Mental Health Systems

- We have not heard about our re-submitted proposal to the NIH to develop a co-responder program.
- The supplemental City budget request to fund a public safety/justice systems mental health program was not submitted due to the budget shortfall caused by the pandemic.
- The grant application to fund a justice coordinator position to provide dedicated support for the community's justice system reform work is on hold due to the pandemic.

Brilliant Beginnings

- The process of hiring our Brilliant Beginnings coordinator was delayed by the pandemic but we hope to begin the process in July. Again, this project is a collaborative effort to better coordinate and target our community's home visiting resources.

FY2021 City Budget

All City departments have been asked to provide proposed budget cuts totaling 10%. The proposed cuts to our department's budget include up to 35% of the social services funding. These are presented to the City Manager to use in crafting his budget, so the cuts are not imminent. I will keep the commission posted as information is made available. The commission and staff will again present a budget report on the City social services funding to the City Council at the August 17 council meeting. The commission chair will again have an opportunity to address the council at the meeting.

FY2021 Social Services RFP

As you are aware, we plan to issue the FY2021 social services RFP on July 20, 2020. We have two key decision areas to discuss regarding the FY2021 social services RFP.

- The RFP timeline
- The services to include in the RFP

I have attached a revised, draft RFP timeline. One decision we need to make is whether or not to hold site visits. My recommendation would be not to do so as I believe the risk associated with exposure to COVID-19 outweighs the benefits. Please be prepared to discuss this issue.

We have had lengthy discussions over the last year about whether or not we should continue to purchase children, youth, and family services. The current contracts in this former issue area, which terminate at the end of this year, are as follows:

Children, Youth, and Families					
ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM NAME	SERVICE	SERVICE AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT	CONTRACT PERIOD
1 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	Community-Based Mentoring	community-based mentoring	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	2018-2020
2 CHA Low-Income Services, Inc. (CHALIS)	Moving Ahead Program- School Year	out of school programming	\$40,660.00	\$40,660.00	
3 CHA Low-Income Services, Inc. (CHALIS)	Moving Ahead Program- Summer	out of school programming	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	
4 Community Playground of Columbia, Inc. (dba: Fun City Youth Academy)	Fun City Saturday Academy	out of school programming	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	
5 Community Playground of Columbia, Inc. (dba: Fun City Youth Academy)	Fun City Summer Academy	out of school programming	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	
6 Grade A Plus	Academic Support and Enrichment Program	out of school programming	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	
7 Lutheran Family and Children's Services	Pregnancy and Parenting Services	home visiting	\$40,047.00	\$40,047.00	
			\$228,707.00	\$228,707.00	

When the Boone County children's services tax was passed, we decided to take a wait and see approach with regard to the City's purchase of children, youth, and family services. At this time, I believe there are several compelling reasons to consider ceasing or reducing the City's purchase of children, youth, and family services:

- The social services funding is intended to be utilized for the purchase of social services the City is not capable of or interested in providing. The City provides multiple services

to this population, including out of school programming, recreational activities, home visiting, health care, health education, mentored youth employment services, public transportation, and many others.

- There is a dedicated county tax for services for this population which typically exceeds \$7 million annually in revenues and allocations, as compared to our investment of \$228,000. We have since formed a close partnership with the County Community Services Department and I have every confidence they provide strong leadership in this area.
- The United Way continues to allocate a significant amount of their funding for this population.
- As indicated above, it is very likely the County's Community Health Fund will be discontinued due to the changes in the Boone Hospital lease and this will result in a loss of \$500,000 annually in health and human services funding in the community. In turn, this will place even further pressure on the City to purchase basic needs services.
- We are again facing possible cuts to the City's social services funding.

Last spring, as we faced the possibility of cuts to the social services funding, we communicated the possibility of no longer contracting for children, youth, and family services to the currently contracted providers of these services. In those communications, we strongly encouraged the providers to apply for the upcoming Boone County Children's Services Fund RFP for 2020-2021. It is our understanding that all of the providers did apply in response to the RFP. Only Grade A Plus is not currently contracted by the County. Big Brothers Big Sisters is contracted by the county, but not for the same program and service currently contracted by the City. The other providers are all contracted by the county for the same programs and services currently contracted by the City.

For a targeted opportunity, one of my areas of primary concern at this time is our emergency shelter situation. We continue to lack enough year round emergency shelter and I am very concerned about RATI's ability to operate this winter under their normal model during the pandemic as congregate sheltering in churches will almost assuredly not be safe. Therefore, significantly increased operational costs are anticipated for RATI, if they are in fact able to operate at all.

My recommendations to address these issues are:

Children, Youth, and Families

- Reduce the amount of funding we allocate to children, youth, and family services. We do not need to address this in the RFP. Instead, I would suggest we make allocations with a cap of \$200,000 for this service area when we make allocations.
- Only accept proposals from currently contracted providers for currently contracted children, youth, and family services, with the exception of home visiting, which is a service provided by our department.
- Indicate to City Council, when the contract recommendations are made in December, that it is our recommendation that the City cease purchasing children, youth, and family services unless additional social services funding can be made available.

Targeted Opportunity

- Utilize approximately \$50,000 to support low-barrier, overnight emergency shelter services.

Economic Opportunity

- Utilize the balance of at least \$100,000 for income support and employment services.

Based on these recommendations, I would recommend the RFP include the following services by issue area:

Targeted Opportunity

Taxonomy		Requirements
#	Service	
5.21	Overnight Emergency Shelter	Must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be proposed by a provider currently contracted by the City of Columbia for this service • Utilize a very low-barrier model • Utilize the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care HMIS • Participate in the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care and Columbia/Boone County Functional Zero Task Force coordinated entry process

Children, Youth, and Families

Taxonomy		Requirements
#	Service	
9.4	Out of School Programming	Must be proposed by a provider currently contracted by the City of Columbia for this service
9.13	Community-Based Mentoring	Must be proposed by a provider currently contracted by the City of Columbia for this service

Economic Opportunity

Taxonomy		Requirements
#	Service	
6.5	Career Exploration	
6.6	Job Coaching	
6.7	Job Placement	
6.8	Job Readiness Assessment	
6.9	Job Readiness Training	
6.11	Personal Finance Education	
9.18	Personal Development	