

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
DRAFT Minutes
March 23, 2016

The Standing Committee on Health & Human Services met to review the 2017 proposed budgets of Human Rights Commission, Children's Cove, Human Services, and Elder Services on March 23, 2016, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Patrick Princi, Edward McManus, and Brian O'Malley
Absent: Christopher Kanaga and Teresa Martin.

1:40 PM: Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission (HRC) Chairman Roland Bessette and Human Rights Coordinator Elenita Munoz met with the committee to answer questions from the committee regarding the programs and operations of the Human Rights Commission. Finance Director Mary McIsaac and Finance Assistant Bob Lawton were also present. A personnel schedule and a list of account lines that support the HRC budget (through the Commissioners budget) was provided to the committee. These documents will be attached to the minutes and available for review at the Clerk's Office.

The HRC budget is the smallest budget in the County. This budget is now part of the County Commissioners budget and was presented to the Finance Committee on March 9, 2016. There were no objections to advancing it forward to the meeting with committee chairs.

The HRC received a grant from Eastern Bank to support the HRC breakfast in December. No county funds were used towards the breakfast. A conference is being scheduled for some time in 2017 on climate change and human rights and grants are being sought for this purpose.

The new reporting structure between the Coordinator and County Administrator is going well. This year several vacancies were filled on the Human Rights Commission from several cape towns.

No recommendation or vote was taken. This budget is a part of the County Commissioners budget and was reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee on 3/9/16.

2:00 PM: Children's Cove

Director Stacy Gallagher met with the committee to review the department's proposed budget for FY 2017. Finance Director Mary McIsaac and Finance Assistant Bob Lawton were also present. A handout was provided by Stacy to the committee in addition to a personnel schedule and a summary sheet that highlighted grant awards and budget changes. These documents will be attached to the minutes and available for review at the Clerk's Office.

The National Children's Alliance (NCA) and the Massachusetts Children's Alliance (MACA) are two grants totaling \$30,250 to the county. These grants are used to cover awareness ads. In addition to these grants the contracted service account line of \$35,000 is funding that covers other media outlets and outreach for the Children's Cove and is contracted with Grouper Design. The Department of Children and Families Grant (DCF) and the SAIN Grant both help fund the salaries of the Director, Deputy Director and Administrative Assistant. The Director indicated that awareness is the premise of the Children's Cove does.

The Children's Cove building and property is a county asset and does not generate rent to the county. The cost of providing services is being examined by the county in all departments. All services are provided by county staff except for medical services and attorney services. The department is continually looking at gaps in service.

The In-State Travel line was cut in half to \$8,720. Postage and office supplies decreased by \$1,000 each. Cable was also decreased to the basic level. Budget cuts were done based on historical spending and followed the same rationale as applied to other departments.

Edward Lewis asked for an explanation regarding internet activity, human trafficking and how cape cod children are involved. These types of activities are increasing and Children's Cove gets involved with these types of cases because Cape Cod children are involved.

Motion made by Edward McManus, and seconded, to forward the proposed Children's Cove FY17 budget request of \$737,799.22 to the Finance Committee. 3-0-0.

2:30 PM: Human Services

Human Services Director Beth Albert met with the committee to review the proposed budget for FY 2017. Several handouts were provided to the committee and will be attached to the minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

The budget includes \$501,911 in committed grant revenue to the county. This is an increase of approximately \$210,000 over FY16. There are several other grants administered by the department including the PWTF Grant of approximately 1.4 million dollars (for three years) for two community health center and the healthy living collaborative, the Continuum of Care Grant (CoC) of approximately 1.5 million dollars to numerous agencies for permanent housing for the chronically homeless, and the HOME Grant of approximately \$392,396 (for FY17) to support affordable housing assistance for residents of the 15 cape towns.

Key department initiatives for FY17 include: Regional Network on Homelessness/CoC Program), Affordable Housing/HOME Program, Addressing Substance Use, Older Adults/SHINE Program, Improving Health Outcomes, and Information Clearinghouse.

Potential revenue sources for FY17 include a monitoring assessment fee of \$40 that can be charged for each unit in the HOME Program going forward, and staff who are trained to do environmental reviews in the future.

The committee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by the Director that reorganized and segregated expenses and grant revenues generated by each program. This sheet includes all grants and programs as compared to how it has been presented in previous years. Differences from FY16 to FY17 for several line items were explained using the historical costing methods applied by the Finance Director and are uniform with other departments.

The county will contribute \$43,308 to the Shine Program in FY17 and \$118,374 to the HOME Program in FY17. The remaining programs are 100% grant funded and do not cost the county any money.

The HOME Program has been around for a long time. There are about 10 million dollars in HOME properties. The county has acted as the participating jurisdiction and lead entity since about 1994 and this consortium was agreed to by the towns and therefore none of the towns individually are eligible for HOME dollars. It's an expensive program to run and the county is obligated to monitor these units. If the county does not want to continue as the participating jurisdiction at the end of the June 2017 contract period, the responsibility would revert to each town for monitoring.

Motion made by Brian O'Malley, and seconded, to forward the proposed Human Services FY17 budget request of \$1,121,854.22 to the Finance Committee. 3-0-0.

3:10 PM: Elder Services

Executive Director Leslie Scheer and Chief Financial Officer Deborah Tranfaglia met with the committee and provided a packet of materials and an agency overview, with charts and graphs related to the nutrition program for Barnstable County. Information included a five year history of the total number of meals served, the number of County residents served through home delivery and dining services, number of meals delivered (191,886 in FY15), delivery by town, budgeted revenue, and an agency income statement. These documents will be attached to the minutes and available for review at the Clerk's Office. This budget is in the form of a grant through the County Commissioners budget that is provided to Elder Services of Cape Cod.

The Elder Nutrition Program was reduced in FY16 to \$40,000 from \$80,000 in FY15. The statistical information reveals an increase in home delivery and a decrease in the use of dining center. This is not an income based program, and is provided to people who have a need, whether short or long term. The meal cost of \$2.00 is a donation and not required. Some towns provide in-kind donations (use of space, etc.). Not every town provides financial support.

The agency shortfall for FY17 is anticipated at \$192,989. The agency will address the shortfall through the use of fund balance and additional fund raising. There are concerns about the use of fund balance to support future budget shortfalls.

No recommendation was made and no vote was taken. The funding for this agency is a human services grant to Elder Services of Cape Cod through the County Commissioners budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O'Connell, Secretary/Clerk
Assembly of Delegates