

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
Minutes
March 5, 2014

The Standing Committee on Health & Human Services met to review the 2015 proposed budgets of Elder Services, the Human Rights Commission, Human Services, Children's Cove and the Affordable Housing section of the Cape Cod Commission budget on March 5, 2014, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Christopher Kanaga, Suzanne McAuliffe, Patrick Princi (arrived at 1:05 pm), and Anthony Scalse.

1:00 PM: Elder Services

Executive Director Leslie Scheer and Chief Financial Officer Deborah Tranfaglia met with the committee and provided a packet of materials, with charts and graphs related to the nutrition program, the number of County residents served, meal costs, revenues, and an agency income statement. These documents will be considered an addendum to these minutes and are also available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

The Elder Nutrition Program serves approximately 1,000 meals per day using hundreds of volunteers. This is not an income based program, and is provided to people who are home bound and have a need, whether short or long term - the program's recipients are over sixty. A \$2.00 donation is asked for each meal - if the client has the ability to pay. The agency cost per meal for FY15 will increase to \$8.90 from \$8.76 in FY14.

The agency shortfall for FY15 is anticipated at \$274,300. The program was funded by the County in FY14 at \$75,000. The Commissioners have proposed funding for FY15 at \$80,000. This represents a \$5,000 increase over FY14 and will help reduce the shortfall to \$269,300 if approved.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend approval of the FY15 budget request of \$80,000 for the Elder Services Program to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

1:30 PM: Human Rights Commission

HRC Chairman John Reed, Coordinator Elenita Muniz, and Commissioner Paul Houlihan met with the committee to discuss their mission and plans for FY 2015. A packet of information was provided to the committee that contained a summary and narrative of the FY15 budget request to the Commissioners, FY15 Goals and Objectives, and a Progress Report on FY14 Goals and Objectives. These documents and other related references will be considered an addendum to these minutes and are also available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

John Reed pointed out that the Human Rights Commission looks at different forms of discrimination on the Cape. The Commission is looking at the possibility that middle schools on the Cape are interested in the HR Academy.

The FY2015 budget requested from the County Commissioners was \$60,350. The Commissioners approved a budget request of \$54,350 for FY15.

HRC Coordinator Elenita Muniz identified the accounts that the HRC was seeking an increase for: Increase in the Coordinator's workload (for a salary increase of \$5.00 p/hr. but no increase in hours worked), outreach (for training and food expenses), Strategic Plan Committee

(for printing and office supplies), more professionally managed events (for advertising and misc. expenses), and the Human Rights Academy (for site rental cost increase). Suzanne McAuliffe commented on the fact that the increase requested in the budget presented to the Commissioners within the salary category appears to be higher than what is being done throughout the budget with other County departments. The increase is not being driven by an increase in hours (or workload that would translate to a need for more hours) but reflects a salary increase of \$5.00 per hour. John Reed stated that the Coordinator is doing more work during the hours she has been assigned.

It was stated that there are approximately 1800 hours donated by volunteers at an estimated value of \$50,000. It did not appear that interpretative services were in the proposed budget.

Paul Houlihan outlined the goals and objectives of the HRC: 1) direct response to possible human rights violations; 2) continue to increase the public presence of HRC; 3) active support and growth of the HR Academy; 4) operate as a collaborative partner on projects; 5) increase and diversify its financial support; and 6) identify and undertake projects to respond to County needs.

No recommendation was made and no vote was taken.

2:00 PM: Human Services

Human Services Director Beth Albert, SHINE Program Manager Sheila Curtis, and Vaira Harik met with the committee to review the proposed budget for FY 2015. A handout was provided to the committee will be considered an addendum to these minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

Beth Albert highlighted the activities of the department for F14. The department was awarded one of 9 prevention Wellness Grants from the State in the amount of \$236,000 for a capacity building phase and will continue to receive up to 1.5 million over a three year period. The department is continuing to leverage resources in order to maximize its return on investment (ROI), addresses pressing health and human service needs (convened a Regional Substance Abuse Council in 2014), makes information available to the public (via launch of a new website in 2014), and incubates pilot projects to meet identified needs. Beth Albert indicated that she took the County's Strategic Plan and formatted the goals and plans of the department to mirror the County's plan.

Highlights of the proposed budget for FY15 include a 3 year SHINE Grant awarded in FY14. The FY15 budget for this program is \$99,548. The FY budget request is \$30,548 from County funds for this program. These funds will cover the shortfall for FY15. Recently, a donation from Yarmouth of \$43,000 was made to the SHINE program. At this time the stipulations and/or restrictions related to this donation are not known. Therefore, it is not known whether or not these funds can be used for the shortfall.

The Human Services budget included the budget for the Human Rights Commission (\$54,350), which primarily remains the same except for a slight increase in contractual lines.

SHINE Program Manager Sheila Curtis reviewed a list of SHINE clients assisted Cape wide through June 2013. The total number of clients assisted was 3,656. There were 35 SHINE counselors that volunteered 3,248 hours of service, with an additional 840 hours of training, at a total value of \$110,376.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend approval of the FY15 budget request for Human Services (excluding the \$54,350 for the Human Rights Commission) to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

2:40 PM: Cape Cod Council of Churches

Diane Casey Lee briefly appeared before the Committee to explain the need and request for funding. She indicated that the organization served approximately 46,000 meals this past year to hungry residents.

This was not a scheduled agenda item and Chair Christopher Kanaga explained that she could take a few minutes to explain what she was seeking but other scheduled departments were waiting to make presentations. He asked her if she could forward information regarding her request to him. She indicated that she would forward the information to his email, would wait for a response, and thanked the Committee for their consideration.

No recommendation was made and no vote was taken.

2:50 PM: Children's Cove

Director Stacy Gallagher and Leslie Moreland met with the committee to review the proposed budget for FY 2015. The department is re-organizing its mental health program, looking at standard treatment models, and a using on-going learning collaborative. The advertising campaign is working well and people are calling because they hear the radio ad.

The budget request for 2015 reflects an increase in funding for marketing (\$20,000 to \$25,000) and an additional \$10,000 for mental health consultant training. The budget also includes \$2,000 for translators (under the professional and technical services account line). The department anticipates receiving \$100,000 from the State for funding (as it has in previous years). There are no capital items in the budget this year. The Commissioners approved the full budget request presented by the Children's Cove.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend approval of the FY15 budget request for Children's Cove to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

3:15 PM: Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing Specialist Paul Ruchinkas, Chief Financial Officer Gail Coyne, and Michelle Springer, all from the Cape Cod Commission, met with the committee to provide an overview of the program. Several handouts were provided to the Committee and will be considered an addendum to these minutes and available for viewing at the Clerk's Office.

Gail Coyne reminded the Committee that this particular budget is a part of the Cape Cod Commission budget (similar to the Economic Development budget).

Paul Ruchinkas told the committee that this there is a need for more affordable housing on Cape Cod and that remains a challenge. The Cape has the same affordable housing issues as other resort communities. Rental housing is needed for lower income individuals and families. The low to mid \$200,000 range is what would be affordable.

The Affordable Housing Roles encompass regional resources and programs such as the Home Consortium, the Soft Second Loan Program, and the Regional Ready Renters Program. Michelle Springer monitors the HOME Program. The Housing Program also offers technical

assistance and information sharing such as studies, reports and data, workshops, and is involved with regulatory and regional policy plan development.

No recommendation was made and no vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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