

MINUTES

ASSET & Joint Funders Meeting

January 24, 2019

5:00 pm

City Church

The Analysis of Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET) was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Lisa McCoy at City Church, 2400 Oakwood Road, Ames, Iowa with the following members present: Gloria Betcher, Seth Carter, Evonne Fitzgerald, Mary Beth Golemo, Keith Hobson, Jean Kresse, Tim Lubinus, Lisa McCoy, Judy Meierkord, Dave Morris, Linda Murken, Lauris Olson, Brian Phillips, Andrea Rich, Deb Schildroth, Jen Schill, Melonie Stall, Ashley Thompson, Karla Webb, and Kirk Youngberg. Also present: Gloria Symons.

WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions took place.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Fitzgerald, seconded by Rich, to approve the September 13, 2018 ASSET and Joint Funders minutes and the December 13, 2018 minutes. Motion declared carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Lubinus reported a balance of \$4,333.16.

COMMENTS ON 19/20 FUNDING PROCESS

Ms. Schildroth told the group Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) staff member Karla Webb was not in attendance. She said Ms. Webb was requesting feedback for the fee for service lines on the spreadsheet that were filled in. Ms. Rich said it was helpful. Mr. Lubinus concurred.

Ms. Thompson said she is beginning to understand the process as a new volunteer. She said at the Income work session it was mentioned that priorities could be matched to services in the future as part of the process for agencies applying for funding.

APPROVAL OF ASSET RECOMMENDATIONS TO FUNDERS

Mr. Lubinus told the group the recommendations are before the board. Ms. Schildroth said the Volunteer Center of Story County requested \$22,400 more over all the funders. She said the County funds were the only funds providing an increase at \$347. Ms. Schildroth said there have been conversations regarding ASSET agency needs, and VCSC has a plan to proceed with that. Ms. Schildroth said the group has decided to move \$347 of County general basic from Education to Income.

Ms. Olson asked about the YSS Substance Abuse Co-Occurring treatment service. She asked if this is a duplicated service since Community and Family Resources (CFR) will provide it with the awarded Iowa Department of Public Health grant. Ms. Kresse said YSS has done a great job at providing that prevention/ education service, but it has been discussed that CFR should be held accountable for providing the service because of the grant awarded through IDPH. Ms. Schildroth said YSS Executive Director Andrew Allen said YSS did not get the substance abuse prevention grant this year, but they want to maintain other levels of service.

Ms. Betcher asked about the decrease in funding to Mainstream Living. Ms. Kresse said CICS will provide the funding for the service, but many agencies had not drawn down all the funds allocated last year. She said it looks like a reduction, but it is a more realistic estimation for those agencies. Ms. Schildroth said if agencies provide the service and need funding, CICS will be funding those amounts over and above the recommendation for fee for service services. Ms. Schildroth noted that LSI is not requesting funding for School-Based Mental Health.

Ms. Kresse said Mainstream Living is only getting funding through CICS. Ms. Stall said \$44,000 was requested from United Way. Ms. Stall said that program has been running at a loss. Ms. Olson asked about HIRTA request from the City. Ms. Rich said this was a very tough year trying to prioritize each service. Ms. Olson said that will be a direct reduction in the Ames residents served. Mr. Phillips said HIRTA request for City of Ames to city was \$41,000 so pretty close to the request.

Ms. Olson asked about Heartland Senior Services (HSS) Home Delivered Meals under 60 funding at 60% of the request. Ms. Kresse said that is a new service to ASSET this year. Ms. Fitzgerald said with that being a new program, volunteers are more hesitant to fully fund that and take funding from other services that are proven. Ms. Rich said the level of funding for that new service reflects the members' confidence in the new service.

Ms. Betcher asked about the Home Delivered Meals. She asked if that was the program reconfigured. Ms. Schildroth said yes, that Mary Greeley Medical Center prepares the meals, and HSS provides the volunteer coordination and outreach.

The recommendations were approved.

Ms. McCoy left the meeting.

REPORTS

Joint Funders – Ms. Olson said County priorities remain the same and they are looking at a tighter budget with estimations of new revenues. The CIP draft has some items on it that may not get funded. Looked at economic development priorities and reaffirmed the base of funding. She said for ASSET, 3% increase is likely. She said most projects getting moved around are conservation projects. New trails are being planned.

Ms. Kresse said human services is what UWSC does, and they are keeping close eye on how the government shut down is affecting local government workers and those that have been part of the system for a long time. She said SNAP benefits were added to the cards on January 17 for January and February and there may not be additional dollars available in March. They are watching 16 food pantries in Story County and looking at how to assist those families and stretching those food dollars. Ms. Symons said there is enough funding to get WIC through March. As they get further down the path, decisions would need to be made. She said WIC is open for business as usual and wants to get that message out.

Ms. Betcher asked about Scorecard. Ms. Kresse said it is moving forward. The Scorecard will show trends in services. She said they are working with the Board on what they need to know to make decisions and make sure agencies are measuring what they are trying to do. Ms. Betcher said City Council is very interested in that, and wants to find measurable ways to lead the funding. She said in the past, additional requests have come in and she said they expect that could happen again.

Mr. Phillips said the City Council wrap up meeting will be February 12 and the ASSET recommendations will be considered. He said the theme this year was the struggle between the amount of requests and the amount of funding available. He said to support the requests at the level they come in would be unsustainable, so the volunteers had to best address the needs with limited funding. Mr. Phillips told the group that throughout the process this year, notes were made that could help guide decision making in the future. Items on the list will be discussed by the administrative team and then some recommendations may be presented to the larger group. Ms. Olson said she is enthused to hear that. She said moving the needle on basic and immediate need services is what matters, and those other services could be taken over by other funders.

Mr. Carter left the meeting.

Ms. Kresse said the UWSC board has spent a lot of time honing in on priorities, and it is still funding services not included in the priorities. Ms. Murken said some things seem to be priorities that may not really be priorities. Ms. Kresse said there have been discussions on holding agencies accountable for the priorities they are communicating as priorities. Ms. Murken said for the agencies a mid-cycle workshop on a planning process to follow might be helpful. Ms. Schildroth said some have strategic plans, and ASSET has to be careful what is recommended for processes because of the limited staff of some agencies.

Mr. Hobson said board members of UWSC are in different groups based on Education, Health, and Financial Stability. Ms. Kresse said it is a hard process that takes time. Ms. Thompson asked if there is support provided to small agencies with outcomes. Ms. Kresse said the Non-profit Management Academy through ISU extension is available. ASSET funders have done fraud training, audit training, and other opportunities could be may be available. Ms. Kresse said the question "How do you know your program is making a difference?" is a good place to start. Mr. Hobson said the Community Impact Director is meeting with agencies and developing the Scorecard system. Ms. Murken said after training the agencies will think more about putting a new program together.

Ms. Fitzgerald said she feels a lot of thought does go into services by the agencies. Ms. Murken said funders need to communicate priorities, but funders can also fall into the trap of believing an issue is an issue without the data showing a need. She encouraged funders to have good data while updating priorities. Ms. Olson said funders need to start to narrowing in on priorities and asked if it would mess up the system if funders are narrowing priorities while the administrative team is reviewing the process. Mr. Phillips said the discussion will be a pretty broad exercise at this point to determine what is working well and what isn't. Ms. Schill asked if scorecard takes into account any measurement from the client. Ms. Kresse said it depends on the program and the agency. She said the 5(O) was the base for Scorecard, and now helping agencies report on what they want their service to do. Ms. Schill said a service may be serving many people that could be done differently to help a lot more.

Ms. Stall said she thinks it's okay for Funders to make those decisions and tell the agencies. She said, as a part of an agency, that agencies flounder with knowing who to request the funds of. Agencies are struggling to understand the planning and priorities as well.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Kresse recognized Mr. Lubinus for keeping the schedule going during the hearings. Ms. Fitzgerald said although she is completing her ASSET term, she will do more volunteer work in Story County because of her experience with ASSET.

INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Funding Recommendations Posted: January 25, 2019
- B. Next ASSET Administrative Team Meeting: February 6, 2019 at United Way (12:15 p.m.)
- C. Next ASSET Meeting: February 14, 2019 at City Church (5:00 p.m.)
- D. Funding Letters sent: February 28, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.