

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Text File

File Number: 150139.

Agenda Date: 7/16/2015

Version: 1

Status: Passed

In Control: City Manager

File Type: Discussion Item

Title

Oversight Advisory Board Recommendations to the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (B)

The Oversight Advisory Board requests the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners consider the following three recommendations regarding the operation of the Empowerment Center and Dignity Village: (1) Approve the FY 2016 Budget for the Alachua County Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless (ACCHH) in the amount of \$780,793.50; (2) Amend the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County to give the Oversight Advisory Board the responsibility to review programs and services at Dignity Village; and (3) Approve only one (1) Vendor for the operation of the Empowerment Center (GRACE Marketplace) and Dignity Village.

Explanation

1.) The City Manager has included in his FY 2016 Proposed Budget funding for the Empowerment Center (GRACE Marketplace) at the same level as FY 2015, which is \$559,680. The Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County requires that the funding be shared equally; therefore, for FY 2016, the City's share would be \$279,840 and the County's share would be \$279,840. The City requested Alachua County to provide similar funding to ACCHH for FY 2016. (See Attachment A, Letter to County Manager Lee Niblock.) On June 3rd, the Oversight Advisory Board recommended to the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners that, for FY 2016, they fund ACCHH in the amount of \$780,793.50 (a \$221,113.50 increase over the FY 2015 funding amount) with the condition that the actual expenditure rate reflect the FY 2015 level. The Oversight Board agreed that the \$780,793.50 budget was reasonable and wanted to ensure that that level of funding would be available for ACCHH in FY 2016. In addition, the Board indicated that it would work with ACCHH to raise the additional \$221,113.50 from grants and private sector sources. (See Attachment B, minutes from the June 3rd Oversight Board meeting). The proposed increase in funding requires both the County and the City to provide an additional \$110,556.75 for FY 2016. Attachment C is a copy of the ACCHH's budget presentation, which includes the ACCHH's comparison of its services with St. Francis House.

FY 2016 is the final year of the three-year contract between the City of Gainesville and ACCHH for the management and coordination of services for the homeless at the Empowerment Center. City and County staff anticipate bringing this item to the attention of the Oversight Board in the First Quarter of FY 2016. At that time City and County staff will ask the Oversight Board to recommend to the City Commission and the County Commission whether a new RFP should be issued or whether a new contract for homeless services should be

negotiated for FY 2017.

At this time, ACCHH has yet to submit its recommendation(s) to the Oversight Board as to how FY 2014 surplus funds in the amount of \$96,124.50 are to be allocated for FY 2015. The Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners gave the Oversight Board the authority to approve the use of the surplus funds for services.

2.) Betty Baker's report on Dignity Village contained several recommendations, including hiring a vendor to run Dignity Village and forming an Action Team to develop some rules and structure for Dignity Village. The City is taking several steps to implement those recommendations. Currently, the City is seeking a vendor/organization that can help stabilize the homeless camping services at Dignity Village. The Gainesville City Commission authorized the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract with Helping Hands Clinic for up to \$50,000 to help Staff stabilize the camping area while rules and regulations are developed. This was an Emergency Request by City Staff to help steady the camping area as quickly as possible. The negotiation between the City and the Helping Hands Clinic for a 6-month contract was never finalized because Helping Hands Clinic withdrew from the negotiation table for reasons unknown to Staff. In addition, the City Staff created an Action Team which includes members from the City of Gainesville Building Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Neighborhood Improvement, Purchasing Department, City Attorney's Office, Facilities Management Division, GRU, Alachua County Health Department, and the Alachua County Community Support Services Department. The City has also sought input and feedback from Helping Hands Clinic and others on the proposed rules and regulations.

The City of Gainesville took some action during the interim period to ensure safe and sanitary conditions at the site (additional portalets and dumpsters were placed at the site). The City worked with the Alachua County Emergency Management Department, Alachua County Community Support Services, Gainesville Emergency Management Team, Purchasing Department, and Neighborhood Improvement Department to develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan for Dignity Village. City Staff will host a meeting with the residents of Dignity Village to review the Emergency Evacuation Plan. That meeting is scheduled for early July. City Staff is considering seeking another vendor or a staff /volunteer organization combination to stabilize the camping area.

The Oversight Board's Citizens Advisory Work Group recommended to the Oversight Board that the Interlocal Agreement that created the Oversight Board be amended to expand the purview of the Oversight Board to include Dignity Village. Furthermore, the Citizens Advisory Work Group recommended to the Oversight Board that the City hire only one Vendor/ACCHH to manage programs and services on the Empowerment Center Campus as well as Dignity Village.

The Oversight Board approved the recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Work Group to recommend to the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners that the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County be amended to include the review and evaluation of services for Dignity Village and that only one vendor/ACCHH be given the responsibility of managing the Empowerment Center and Dignity Village.

Fiscal Note

- 1.) The Oversight Board's recommendation to the City Commission regarding ACCHH funding will require the City and County to identify and allocate an additional \$221,113.50 from their FY 2016 Budget.

- 2.) The City Commission authorized the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract for an Emergency Vendor for up to \$ 50,000 to stabilize the camping area at Dignity Village while the City develops a long-term plan for the camping site. The Oversight Board approved the recommendation to the County Commission that \$25,000 be approved for Management Services for Dignity Village.

Recommendation

- 1.) The Oversight Advisory Board requests that the City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners fund the ACCHH in the amount of \$780,793.50 with the condition that ACCHH utilize the same expenditure rate as it did for the FY 2015 funds, while the Oversight Board assists the ACCHH with its fundraising campaign.

- 2.) The Oversight Board requests the City of Gainesville and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to amend the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gainesville and Alachua County to expand the purview of the Oversight Board to include review and evaluation of services and programs at Dignity Village.

- 3.) The Oversight Board recommends that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County approve that one vendor/ACCHH be given the responsibility to manage the Empowerment Center and Dignity Village.

Alternate Recommendation

- 1.) City Staff requests the City Commission fund the ACCHH in the amount of \$559,680 for FY 2016.

- 2.) Alternate recommendation to the City Commission that the Interlocal Agreement not be amended to include Dignity Village in the purview of the Oversight Board.

- 3.) Alternate recommendation to the City Commission that other vendors be considered for the management of the Dignity Village rather than considering only one vendor /ACCHH to provide these services.