

Report
City of St. Petersburg
Youth and Family Services
Thursday, November 14, 2019 @ 1:30 p.m.
Sunshine Center – Auditorium

Present: Chair Amy Foster, Vice Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, CM Brandi Gabbard, CM Charlie Gerdes, CM Steve Kornell – Alternate

Also Present: Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin, Tom Greene, Rob Gerdes, Christina Boussias

Support Staff: Kyandra Darling El-Amin, City Council Legislative Aide

A. Call to Order and Roll Call – 1:30pm

B. Approval of August 15, 2019 Minutes – Approved unanimously.

C. New Business:

Partnership to End Childhood Homelessness (*Councilmember Steve Kornell and Susan Myers*)

CM Kornell started with a PowerPoint presentation to review the proposal. He shared that PEMHS is requesting \$250,000 of new funding to start a pilot program aimed to eliminate homelessness at the seven Transformation Zone schools in St. Pete. He added the first priority would be street homeless and the second would be students living in motels or emergency shelters. The chart presented showed that four hundred and sixty-eight students were identified as homeless in the seven TZ schools for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Susan Myers, Director of the Homeless Leadership Board, said that there are more than thirty families on the literally homeless waitlist in Pinellas county, they aren't tracked by city.

CM Gabbard asked if there's a need identified for a student in another school would they be able to receive services. CM Kornell says it's important to demonstrate that the program makes an impact on homelessness and the schools. He added that it could be changed if that's the desire of City Council, but we would lose the research and evaluation element and how it affects the school.

CM Wheeler-Bowman asked if the St. Petersburg Housing Authority seemed interested in providing services to homeless students similarly to Pinellas County Housing Authority. CM Kornell said yes, they are open to the discussion.

CM Gerdes asked where the amount of \$250,000 came from. CM Kornell said he felt it was reasonable to start with and the team felt anything would be helpful to move this forward. He believes this will help to quantify and clearly identify what is able to be done with the requested funding. CM Gerdes said he would be happy to over appropriate on this item if there's unspent money at the end of the year. He asked how the funding would be split.

CM Kornell answered the funds remaining after paying the staff person would have to be split amongst the schools using a formula that considers the number of homeless students at each school, with some flexibility. CM Gerdes asked if PEMHS tracked educational outcomes or data on the forty-three students placed. CM Kornell said PEMHS didn't provide that but going forward the school system has agreed to provide aggregated data. He added that he can go back and ask PEMHS if they have this data available. CM Gerdes asked Mr. Gerdes if he had an idea of where this money would be coming from. Mr. Gerdes said this funding would not come from their budget. Deputy Mayor Tomalin said this funding would have to be found in contingency.

Chair Foster shared the concern that she isn't comfortable with someone being a sole-source provider that isn't participating in the system already and is not housing first. CM Kornell responded that PEMHS has agreed to attend provider meetings and enter information in HMIS which can be reinforced with a contract. Chair Foster asked PCS Associate Superintendent Lori Matway if she would be in opposed to RFP'ing the process. Ms. Matway answered that PEMHS seemed like the logical and fastest option because they are already in the schools, but PCS is not married to any group. She added that the provider needs to be able to act quickly and immediately because there's great need. She also noted that the largest group of homeless youth fall under the four to twelve-year-old age group. Deputy Mayor Tomalin added that this is not a proposal from the City and we aren't seeking a vendor to provide services, this is a funding request that has come to Council for consideration. She added that creating an RFP would slow the process.

CM Gabbard raised the concern that this wouldn't automatically be in the budget going forward and she wants the City to take the time and diligence to make this an ongoing solution because the problem isn't going to go away. CM Kornell believes there's some flexibility for Council to make this an ongoing solution. He clarified that PEMHS did not request to be in this position so he is open to modifications, but he would humbly request that Council consider the people on the ground working with families. He added that most of the committee felt PEMHS was streamlined because they are already placed at chosen schools. Chair Foster reiterates that she feels PEMHS falls behind the other possible providers that could be used. She suggested that it may make more sense to give the funding to the Homeless Leadership Board who could then handle the RFP process. She asked Ms. Myers to respond to HLB's ability to handle the RFP process if given the funds. Ms. Myers said that during the committee meetings she did express her support for a competitive process because that is typically what HLB does. She added that it is a challenge as far as bandwidth but she's sure they could manage the request if it was assigned to them.

Action: CM Gerdes moved that the committee recommends to City Council an appropriation of \$275,000 to offer to HLB, to identify and select a vendor to provide the scope of services identified in CM Kornell's presentation to the seven schools as a pilot program. He added that from the \$275,000 HLB can use up to \$25,000 for the administrative costs of doing the RFP and any money left over goes towards the pilot program. The motion passed unanimously.

CM Kornell said he wants to be sure HLB can serve the students as outlined, or their selected vendor. Chair Foster answered that the services are always related to the dollars and not the philosophy.

E. Adjournment

RESOLUTION O. 2019-____

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF THE AMOUNT OF \$275,000 FROM THE BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY FOR FY 20 (0001) TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, VETERANS, SOCIAL AND HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION (080-2327) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROJECT DESIGNED TO DECREASE HOMELESSNESS FOR STUDENTS IN SEVEN ST. PETERSBURG SCHOOLS; PROVIDING THAT THE AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, City Council Member Steve Kornell gave a presentation to the Youth & Family Services Committee on November 14, 2019 regarding the collaborative effort by various organizations and public agencies to reduce youth homelessness through implementation of a pilot project designed to house homeless students attending seven Transformation Zone schools in St. Petersburg (“Pilot Project”); and

WHEREAS, research indicates that homelessness has a negative impact on students’ academic gains and attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Youth & Family Services Committee has recommended that \$275,000 be expended to provide funding for implementation of the Pilot Project, and that up to \$25,000 may be utilized by the agency receiving the funding to cover administrative costs associated with competitively soliciting a vendor to perform the scope of work for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Pilot Project will identify families with at least one student at one of the Transformation Zone schools in St. Petersburg that are homeless (including students living in motels or emergency shelters) and will aim to provide the support necessary to move the families into permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Pilot Project, information on families served will be entered into the Pinellas Homeless Management Information System; and

WHEREAS, funds provided by the City for the Pilot Project will be used in accordance with the best practice model of Housing First, as defined in St. Petersburg City Council Resolution No. 2016-239; and

WHEREAS, a transfer in the amount of \$275,000 from the balance of the FY20 General Fund Contingency (0001) to Neighborhood Affairs Administration Department, Veterans, Social

and Homeless Services Division (080-2327) is necessary for Administration to negotiate a funding agreement for implementation of the Pilot Project; and

WHEREAS, after this transfer, the balance in the General Fund contingency will be \$130,148.

OW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that there is hereby approved from the previously appropriated balance of the General Fund Contingency (0001), the following transfer for F 2020:

<u>General Fund Contingency (0001)</u>	(\$275,000)
Neighborhood Affairs Administration Department, Veterans, Social and Homeless Services Division (080-2327)	\$275,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Administration shall use this \$275,000 transfer to provide funding for implementation of the Pilot Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding agreement for implementation of the Pilot Project between the agency receiving the funding and the City is subject to City Council approval.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approvals:

/s/Christina Boussias
City Attorney (Designee)
00482213

E Makofski
Budget

