



Office of Community Involvement



Central CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Board of County Commissioners (3) pages

FROM: Central Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)

DATE: April 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Central Community Budget Advisory Committee Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Community Budget Advisory Committee (CCBAC) values the opportunity to collaborate across the committees and develop recommendations on Multnomah County's FY2022 Budget from a countywide perspective. As we developed our recommendations, we held at the forefront the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the community demands to transform our public safety systems, and the opportunities to carry the lessons learned from the past year into the future.

We agreed upon the following core values to guide our recommendations:

- Racial Justice
- Safety & Basic Needs for the Community
- Community Access to the Budget Process
- Equity Driven

PROCESS

The CCBAC represents the nine department CBACs and is represented by one or more persons. Some CBACs had a single representative in attendance at all CCBAC meetings, while others rotated their representation. We appreciate all of the CBAC members who contributed to the CCBAC's work and dedicated additional time to the CBAC program:

- Department of Community Justice: Aron Klein
- Department of Community Services: Mercedes Elizalde and Katie Gavares
- Department of County Assets and Management: Heather Berry, Moses Ross, Sam Caldwell, and Karen Williams
- Department of County Human Services: Kali Glenn-Haley
- Multnomah County District Attorney: Cynthia Escamilla
- Multnomah County Health Department: Alysia Cox and Rosalie Lee
- Multnomah County Library: Quinn MacNichol and Salma Sheikh
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office: Patrick Pangburn

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- Non-Departmental: Zackariah Sloane

The CCBAC met four times between January and March 2021. On February 24th, the CCBAC met with Adam Renon, Policy Advisory for Chair Kafoury, who provided the committee with information on Reimagine Oregon and public safety reforms. On March 31st, the CCBAC met with Liam Frost (Senior Policy Advisor for Chair Kafoury) Jeff Renfro (County Economist), Brooke Chilton-Timmons (Management Analyst for DCHS) and Eric Arellano (Chief Financial Officer) to learn more about the County's new revenue streams, including Preschool for All and the Metro housing measure.

The committee approved its recommendations at its March 31st meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Increasing Access & Equity

The CCBAC strongly advocates for continued prioritization on increasing access to programs which focus on equity and expand accessibility. In recent elections, voters in Multnomah County have voted overwhelmingly to support universal preschool, expansion of libraries, and reducing the scope of the criminal justice system. In implementing these voter-approved changes along with other policy changes, the county must ensure that limited resources are directed towards programs that serve the most marginalized individuals and communities and divest from programs and departments that disproportionately harm communities of color and other marginalized communities.

2) COVID Recovery & Learnings

The CCBAC encourages the County to learn from the adaptations made during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue the practices that advanced access and equity. Some examples include virtual visits by parole and probation officers (e.g., instead of more intrusive home visits by an armed, uniformed officer) and improvements in voting access. Another lesson learned is the ability to have verbal consent/approvals as experienced in the Individual and/or Developmental Disabilities. The County also made new investments in building and managing permanent shelters, and we support the continuation of that work. Making permanent these adaptations will achieve the county's goal of shrinking the corrections system, addressing houselessness, and increasing availability of funds to responses to violence that increase equity, accountability, safety, and justice.

3) Community Safety

The CCBAC is deeply concerned by the ongoing increase in domestic and gun violence and urges the county to focus its limited resources on prevention and responses that effectively reduce violence. To combat community violence, resources need to be equitably distributed to programs that increase housing and employment access. To combat domestic violence, which comprises a staggering 25% of the homicides in Multnomah County, we recommend continued investments in programs that support and address the needs of survivors and people currently experiencing domestic violence, including strengthening response capabilities and legal support services at the Gateway Center and programs that

Members: Heather Berry (DCA/M), Sam Caldwell (DCA/M), Alysia Cox (Health), Mercedes Elizade (DCS), Cynthia Escamilla (DA), Katie Gavares (DCS), Kali Glenn-Haley (DCHS), Aron Klein (DCJ), Rosalie Lee (Health), Quinn MacNichol (Library), Patrick Pangburn (MCSO), Moses Ross (DCA/M), Salma Sheikh (Library), Zackariah Sloane (Non-D), Karen Williams (DCA/M); **Staff:** Dani Bernstein

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combat toxic masculinity, which is a primary driver of domestic violence should be invested in. We urge the county to explore and invest in effective responses to harm and violence that are outside of the criminal legal system, such as [Healing Hurt People](#) and [Common Justice](#).

4) Budgeting Process

The CCBAC encourages budgeting practices that promote transparency and trust. Some CBACs have noted that in some departments, the same programs - often those key to advancing equity - are offered up for cuts each year and are always restored. This practice does not lead to transparency or trust for the community, as these cuts to the programs are seen as less of a priority. Many CCBAC members also noted that CBACs have limited time to review program offers and develop their final recommendations on the budget, particularly with the change in the program offer release date this year. We urge the county to set a timeline that gives CBACs earlier access to budget proposals so that we can collaboratively review and offer meaningful feedback in a timeframe which allows for thoughtful consideration.

The CCBAC is mindful of the limitations of this group, in that we are not representative of the County, with the time to devote to the CBAC process (e.g., inclusive of work arrangements, family obligations and child care or other care-giving needs), politically, economically, geographically, linguistically, and in other ways. We encourage the County to consider additional ways to increase community input from the people who are most served by these programs, and people who these programs may inadvertently exclude, to augment equity and inclusion. We would be interested in hearing more about the County's efforts in this regard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to give special thanks to Dani Bernstein for facilitating our meetings and suggesting and inviting guests. We would like to thank the county employees who have been generous with their time and experience.

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