

Non-Departmental CBAC



TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Board of County Commissioners (4) pages
FROM: Non-Departmental CBAC
DATE: March 10, 2017
SUBJECT: Non-Departmental Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Non-Departmental CBAC met and reviewed program offers from Chair Kafoury and County Commissioners as well as staff from the Office of Emergency Management, Communications, and Government Relations. From those conversations, one of our CBAC members drafted a vision statement for collaboration to maximize the return on investment of precious tax dollars and to drive the County's services. We offer the statement collectively to all the Board of Commissioners:

"The use of collaboration and cooperation is needed among elected and other public officials in Multnomah County and all points east and west in the cities, counties, region, State of Oregon, adjoining states, private agencies, businesses, foundations, cultural and faith communities, educators, students and everyone else to protect the common good of our area. Regardless of how shrinking national, state or other resources affect us, we ask that Multnomah County do what is necessary to preserve needed programs for its residents."

We identified three overall priorities that we want to see embraced by Chair Kafoury and the Board of Commissioners:

TOP 3 PRIORITIES:

1. Rental Housing Stability
2. Mental Health Services Coordination
 - a. Housing stability during crisis
 - b. Gun safety
3. Support for Government Relations and advocacy for federal funding.

PROCESS

The Non-Departmental CBAC, comprised of the following members and staff (listed below), met in a compact schedule of meetings in early 2017: once in January, three times in February, and once in March to hear presentations from eight departments, and to discuss the process for the FY18 budget.

Members: *Brenda Ray Scott (Chair), Cain Bloomer, Liz Foucher-Branch, and Judy Hadley*

Staff: *Brenda Morgan (Interim Executive Director, Office of Community Involvement)*

EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

The most pressing emerging issues relate to homelessness, rent stability, mental health services, and gun safety. The CBAC, along with several presenters, expressed concerns about the impact of the steadily increasing numbers of Multnomah County residents who are experiencing homelessness, those who are close to being homeless because of skyrocketing increases in rent, those who have lost or at risk of losing their mental health care because of budget constraints and limited resources, and last, but not least, the impact of Executive Orders making it easier for those individual with mental health issues to legally obtain weapons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This CBAC identified the top priorities in each of the 8 program offers we studied. There was overlap in several of the offers and presentations. From the overlap, our top 3 priorities emerged, noted in the Executive Summary above.

No.	Date	Program Offer #	Program Offer Title	Presenter(s)
1	2/6/17	10012 \$1,600,394	Office of Emergency Management	Chris Voss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to produce comprehensive disaster preparedness trainings for the public in conjunction with the Communications Office and other municipalities if federal resources unavailable. 				
2	2/23/17	10001 \$642,069	BCC District 1	Commissioner Sharon Meieran
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep focused on the work of educating constituents and others in the community about the impacts of mental health and addiction as root facts in homelessness and poverty. Inventory and evaluate mental health funding streams and programs to explore ways of increasing and leveraging the creative use of available dollars. Work with Government Relations to advocate for gun safety measures to assist residents with mental health challenges. 				
3	2/23/17	10003 \$642,069	BCC District 3	Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with other Commissioners to share knowledge and expertise to enhance understanding of the impact of immigration, mental health, and poverty and how those experiences can impact housing stability. Collaborate with partners to expand jobs training for residents to raise standard of living. Advocate for increased traffic safety in District 3 including adding sidewalks, traffic controls, and other safe improvements in your district to support public safety and livability. 				
4	2/27/17	10007 \$1,537,519	Communications	Julie Sullivan-Springhetti Andrea Coghlan Mike Pullen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Commissioners and other departments to recruit and engage interns to cover community meetings, create district newsletters, and create data that can be shared. 				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for comprehensive disaster preparedness training for the public in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Management and other municipalities if federal resources are not available. • Serve as a primary resource to all County programs for streamlining and coordinating websites. • Replace County magazine with more contemporaneous communication tools. • Expand the number of languages in which County materials are available. 				
5	2/27/17	10004-18 \$642,069	BCC District 4	Commissioner Lori Stegmann
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and engage interns to cover community meetings, create district newsletters, and create data that can be shared. • Involve and coordinate District 4 municipalities and community partners in addressing emerging issues such as housing stabilization. • Invite more young people in the area to become involved in civic matters by forming a youth council made up of representatives from all the cultural groups in East County. 				
6	3/6/17	10000 \$1,635,511	Chair's Office	Chair Deborah Kafoury Nancy Bennett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with City of Portland and others toward housing and rent stabilization including a Home for Everyone. • Protect clean air and water through on-going diesel control and lead testing programs • Address gun safety issues regarding residents with mental health challenges by creating County laws if possible and working with other jurisdictions and Government Relations to create (or strengthen) laws related to gun access for those with mental health conditions. • Collect and make available to the public data related to the impact of investments in education, mental health/addiction services, and other areas. • Create alternate plan for new courthouse if funding not forthcoming • Find an alternative for the homeless shelter now located in the Hansen Building and sell or otherwise dispose of the Hansen Building. 				
7	3/6/17	10002 \$642,069	BCC District 2	Commissioner Loretta Smith Scott Olson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with other Commissioners on funding and management of the WorkSystems summer program as you prepare to leave office. • Invite neighborhood associations from all sectors of District 2 to help with the planning and implementation of the quarterly town hall meetings. • If resources become scarce, spearhead subsidization of school lunch programs in County school districts. 				
8	3/6/17	10016 \$1,028,586	Government Relations	Rhys Scholes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Take Action on Housing program • Advocate for gun safety issues regarding residents with mental health challenges • Advocate in conjunction with the Chair's Office, for laws that cause a decrease in carbon emissions 				

- Advocate for funding to keep vital social services available to vulnerable Oregonians in the whole of Multnomah County and throughout the state.
- Work with Chair's Office to create an alternate plan for courthouse funding to be prepared for reductions in funding at the State and Federal levels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to give special thanks to each of the dedicated Commissioners and County employees who presented to us in the evening, making time at the end of a busy work day and taking time away from their families. We also offer thanks for the invaluable services of OCI Interim Executive Director Brenda Morgan in keeping us focused, and an improving our meeting process.