



**CITY OF DAVIS
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 15, 2015

7:00 pm

Community Chambers

23 Russell Blvd.

Davis, CA 95616

Social Services Commission Members Present:	Claire Goldstene, Donald Kalman, Bernita Toney Tracy Tomasky, R. Matthew Wise (Chairperson), Ann Privateer Mindy Romero (Vice Chairperson- arrived during Item 6A)
Commission Members Absent:	None
Council Liason:	Robb Davis
Staff:	Danielle Foster, Housing and Human Services Superintendent Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Aide
Members of the Public Present:	DJUSD School Climate Coordinator Kate Snow, DJUSD Crisis Counselor Natalie Zehnder, Latasha Adams, Lisa Baker (Yolo County Housing)

1. Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairperson Wise.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Kalman moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Commissioner Goldstene, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Commissioner Tomasky moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015. This was seconded by Commissioner Toney. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment:

None.

5. Commissioner and Staff Communications:

Staffperson Foster mentioned that the free summer lunch program offered through the school district began today, with lunches being distributed at Windmere Apartments (the school district is partnering

with CHOC) and at Montgomery Elementary School. All children ages 1-18 are welcome to either site, and will be required to remain onsite for the duration of the meal.

Wednesday, June 17 is the meeting of the Homelessness Summit with representatives from the city, county, university, non-profit service providers, faith-based groups and businesses meeting under one roof to discuss services for individuals experiencing homelessness; what is working, what services are needed and how those gaps can be addressed. It is anticipated that this meeting will be the first of multiple discussions, and is an important first step in this process.

At the last commission meeting a few commissioners volunteered for the planning group to mark the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Events are being planned for July, and include involvement from the City's ADA Community Advisors and the Human Relation Commission. A proclamation will be given at the City Council meeting on July 7, 2015.

6. Business Items:

A. Need Area - Bridge to Housing Summary Overview.

Staffmember Foster introduced Lisa Baker from Yolo County Housing, to present the case study on the Bridge to Housing project in West Sacramento. The presentation was condensed to a 25-minute summary.

Following the presentation, commission members asked questions. Commissioner Toney asked if the project would be duplicated soon. Ms. Baker replied that many aspects of the project were unique to the situation in West Sacramento and it is unlikely there would be another project on such a large scale. When asked if other regions had attempted a project like Bridge to Housing, Ms. Baker stated that the project is unique to the area, specifically by incorporating social reintegration into the "boot camp" for life skills and access to services.

When asked to list the broad lessons of the project, Ms. Baker replied that the shortage of affordable housing is a large obstacle, but by building relationships and trust amongst the participants, a large number of individuals have been successfully housed.

B. Need Area - Davis Teen Stress.

Staffperson Foster introduced Kate Snow, representing the school district, to speak to the commission on her work with the school climates across the district, and her experience with working with students and teachers to help change behaviors leading to stressful climates. She shared the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) with the commission, which is administered every two years and covers four indicators to track school climate: school connectedness, caring adult relationships, safety, and bullying.

Ms. Snow indicated that there a broad set of factors that go into stress for teenagers. Questions about students who are English learners, of low socioeconomic status, from foster homes or currently homeless and specifically about children of color are included in CHKS. In addition, the state requires responses on how the schools are addressing the needs of the above-mentioned students. Latasha Adams, working with the LCAP committee, undertook a survey at Holmes Jr. High School, Harper Jr. High School and the High School to ask students how *they* think needs are being addressed, sitting down with the children for an entire day. 130 children were surveyed.

Through this survey, trends in stress were identified. Time constraints, with the large amount of homework, activities and assignments sited, were a cause of stress as children felt they had no time during the day. Middle school students voiced the need for a block schedule similar to that offered at the High

School. Testing was also cited as a cause of stress, and the students requested different types of bully-prevention programs, specifically asking for more accessible stories from younger adults. Many students expressed the desire to have a closer relationship with teachers and one-on-one time.

Natalie Zehnder, the district's crisis counselor, spoke on her experience with students experiencing extreme stress, often dealing with addictions, abuse, mental health issues and kids who take on parental roles in their family. For these children, the biggest stressor is family relationships, with school being a secondary source of stress. Children with unaddressed mental health issues also experience anxiety and depression, as they feel they do not have access to care, or resources for care and medication. Unfortunately, in the community there are not a lot of outside resources for children that are affordable and available. Counselors at the school combat the isolation these kids feel through tutoring at the academic learning center, interventions for teens with drug issues based on harm reduction, working on having Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) interns on campus, and assistance from a number of other community organizations. In response to a question from the Commission, Ms. Zehnder said that parent volunteers are not commonly found in the high school environment, and it often depends on how willing the teachers and schools are to having parents on campus.

In response to an earlier discussion item, Commissioner Tomasky asked if administrative staff were informed of the results of the survey work done by Ms. Adams, specifically the feedback that bullying programs needed to be modified in the eyes of the students. Ms. Snow replied that the programs were evolving with the needs of the environment, staff work with principals at each school to figure out how best to address the needs at each site with the available resources. She also mentioned the institution of restorative practices in the district, with the goal of building community to build a resilient environment.

Questioned about drug use among teens, Ms. Zehnder answered that there is not enough hard data to have a clear picture of the situation. Children do not report themselves to the district for intervention or care, often treatment is begun through the legal process or through family intervention. However, based on the estimates of the district, drug and alcohol use tends to be average across district with other sites.

Commissioner Toney raised the issue of the stressor of too much homework, and stated that the Common Core, now established in the district, is supposed to put more emphasis on work in class, and limit the amount of homework assigned to students.

Commissioner Kalman asked the district representatives about social media use, and the pressures associated with online bullying. Ms. Zehnder replied that formal interventions or training are not currently in place, but there is a focus on teaching students' social media responsibility, and encouragement to make good choices. Ms. Snow added that social media is an important issue in the lives of students today, especially in terms of relational bullying. There are studies being conducted on interventions in social media and district counselors are awaiting evidence-based tools.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Romero reminded the district staff that this discussion was the beginning of a careful look at the stressors of kids in Davis, starting with input from the district. Ms. Snow replied that there were many programs and policies being reviewed at the district and board level in response to teen stress. A late-start option has been reviewed very carefully, funding has been increased for elementary school counselors, work is being done on student access to mental health interns, training is underway for crisis intervention, and a "parent university" sponsored speaker series will have some focus on student stress. The district is evaluating the use of current resources to ensure that help is where it needs to be for students at all schools. Councilmember Davis closed the discussion reiterating the

point, highlighting the link between better partnerships, leveraged resources, and support systems to face challenges in the schools and see better outcomes. Agencies need to collaborate to solve problems without duplication of efforts, especially in times of limited resources.

C. Davis Social Services Strategy.

Staffmember Foster provided a quick overview of the first look at the Social Services Strategy, representing a new effort to create cohesive strategy for citywide social services. This is the first step in a several month process, and will conclude with a plan that will eventually return to the City Council. The staff report lists out needs of populations to be included in the strategy, and was based on the Critical Needs list that is reviewed each year by the Commission, as well as the general Commission workplan need areas. A workplan schedule was also presented.

Commissioner Goldstene asked about the city's role as a social services provider, and how that would change or not based on the development of a strategy. Staffperson Foster responded that the city is not a direct service provider for social services - but wishes to formalize the way the city approaches social services coordination, specifically asking "how do we support social services providers and programs through community meetings, connecting resources, funding processes, and community education?" Councilmember Davis agreed the strategy should look at the city's role in opportunities for coordination and collaboration. It is important in this process to tap into the collaborative spirit with the County and surrounding jurisdictions. New sources of targeted, dedicated funding are needed for these programs.

In regards to the definition of "vulnerable" populations, Commissioner Kalman asked for further clarification from Council, and more of a guide as to the vision for the process. Commissioner Kalman also suggested the Commission hold a series of forums to ask the community for their input on issues they wish to see addressed through this process, a sort of city-wide brainstorm.

Commissioner Tomasky pointed out that getting representatives from multiple jurisdictions and organizations is already a large undertaking. She advised a careful approach to the strategy, to ensure success in the long run.

Commissioner Romero commented that the strategy, which will identify vulnerable populations, should also strategize the leveraging of resources, to have real impact on the needs in the community. She requested that goals accompanying the plan should be stated specifically, so they do not get lost. She also suggested needs that cannot be met with current resources should be identified and listed, as an invitation for continued action by the community and/or social services providers.

Councilmember Davis spoke to the interest in partnering with the University to get qualitative data on the community and current needs. He also mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the university to establish new research for data specific to the Social Services Strategy planning process.

After discussion on this item the Commission opened public comment. One member of the public spoke to the need for the city to continue working with the University, as in his estimation the resources of the campus are under-utilized and the town & gown relationships are not what they could be. There should be a compact between Davis and the University to define the partnership.

D. Social Services Commission Workplan

Staffmember Foster told the commission the Affordable Housing ordinance revisions will come back now that the state supreme court has determined that cities can enforce affordable housing requirements on new

housing developments under their general police powers. Changes to the CDBG and HOME application process will come back in September after the recess.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Romero made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kalman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:43 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by,

Danielle Foster
Housing and Human Services Superintendent