



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE Meeting Action Report

Committee: Health & Public Safety

Members: City Representative Eddie Holguin (Chair)
City Representative Emma Acosta
City Representative Carl Robinson
City Representative Beto O'Rourke

Date of Meeting: September 17, 2009
(The meeting commenced at 9:09 a.m. and was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.)

Others Present: OMB Director David Almonte
Community Development Director Bill Lilly
County Judge Anthony Cobos
County Attorney Jose Rodriguez
MHMR CEO Gary Larcenaire
MHMR CFO Selena Quintana
MHMR Board Chair Richard Holt

I. Discussion and action on requesting \$100,000 for MHMR every year from CDBG funds.

Summary:

Bill Lilly, Director of Community Development, stated that MHMR competes like every other agency on an annual basis for funds and they have received funding directly or indirectly for the program on an annual basis. Every summer the City Council adopts a set of policies and procedures that provide the policy direction to the Community Development staff for that particular program year. All funds for public services have been committed in accordance with that direction; the 15% allowable allocation for public services has been met. Therefore, there are no CD funds that can be allocated to MHMR at this time. In the future, if the City desires to allocate \$100,000 from the total public service amount allowable under the regulations they can consider that next year when considering Policies and Procedures for the coming year.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4 -0 to direct the staff to review the amount of funds that have been allocated to MHMR since 2003 and determine as per the contract between the City, County and Hospital District, if the City owes MHMR any additional funds.

Items 3 through 6 were read in together. William Lilly, Director of Community Development, spoke on the items followed by questions and comments from Representative Acosta, Holguin, Robinson and O'Rourke. Gary Larcenaire, CEO of MHMR, spoke as well as Selena Quintana, CFO for MHMR, Judge Anthony Cobos, County Attorney Rodriguez and MHMR Board Chair Richard Holt.

Public Comment was taken at 9:37am with the following speaking: Alfredo Perales, Julio Juarez & Roberto Parra

Motion made by Representative O'Rourke, seconded by Representative Robinson to clear up the terms of the interlocal agreement regarding the MH/MR and that the City Manager or designee and Mr. Gary Larcenaire or designee come to an agreement on what, if anything, the City still owes for the amount to come before council for approval.

AYES: Representative Holguin, Castro, Acosta, & O'Rourke

NAYES: None

NOT PRESENT: N/A

Motion made by Representative O'Rourke, seconded by Representative Robinson to get out of the interlocal agreement between the City of El Paso, County and Hospital District regarding the MH/MR, however, the LRC is willing, on and ad hoc and emergency basis look at funding in the future if the County of El Paso is unwilling to do so.

AYES: Representative Holguin, Castro, & O'Rourke

NAYES: Representative Acosta

NOT PRESENT: N/A

Motion made by Representative O'Rourke, seconded by Representative Robinson to work with Mayor Cook, Sylvia Firth and office to push and hold accountable our state delegation and the rest of the legislature to fund the mental health needs of this community appropriately and that this be a top legislative priority.

AYES: Representative Holguin, Castro, Acosta, & O'Rourke

NAYES: None

NOT PRESENT: N/A

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Representative Eddie Holguin, seconded by Representative Carl Robinson and unanimously carried to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:55 a.m.

AYES: Representative Holguin, Robinson, Acosta, & O'Rourke

NAYES: None

NOT PRESENT: N/A

Approved as to form: _____

Deputy City Manager

Date

II. Discussion and action on entering into an interlocal agreement/contract with the City of El Paso and the MH/MR Sun City Employee Assistance Program for all non uniform employees of the City of El Paso.

Summary:

David Almonte stated that currently the City has an Employee Assistance Program in place that expires in December 2010. The contract is for \$22,000 dollars annually. City Manager, Joyce Wilson is not sure if this entity is exempt from going through the competitive process to compete for award.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4-0 to direct staff to review and determine if there is an inner-agency arrangement that would allow the City to accept an unsolicited proposal that meets the City's needs and is equally cost effective. This action was to be brought back to City Council if need be.

III. Discussion and action on whether to deed the City building that houses MH/MR (3410 Morenci Ave.) to MHMR.

Summary:

Gary Larcenaire, CEO of MHMR, stated that an analysis of the building condition, accompanied by a cost estimate, should be performed to determine whether it should be demolished and rebuilt. He also stated that the MHMR is not interested in having the property deeded to MHMR.

City Manager, Joyce Wilson suggested that the asset could be disposed of and the funding, including relocation assistance, could be provided to MHMR in its place.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4-0 to proceed with termination of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of El Paso and MHMR but the LRC would be willing to look at funding in the future if the County is not able.

IV. Discussion and action on other opportunities or other types of collaborations between MH/MR and the City of El Paso including but not limited to mental health crisis management with the police department, and other types of arrangements that the City can make for mentally ill people who are in crisis and who are in police custody or in the County jail.

Summary:

Representative O'Rourke stated that the City needs to hold the State Delegation accountable as well as the legislature to fund the mental health needs of this community appropriately.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4-1 to have Mayor Cook and for staff to "push" and hold our State Delegation and Legislature accountable in regards to funding the mental health needs of this community appropriately and for this to be top priority.

Submitted By:

Representative Eddie Holguin
Chair, Health & Public Safety LRC

**MINUTES OF
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY
2ND FLOOR – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

AGENDA

1. Call to order and establish quorum.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Representative Eddie Holguin approximately 9:09 am. It was determined that there was a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Chair Representative Eddie Holguin
Representative Emma Acosta
Representative Carl Robinson
Representative Beto O'Rourke

2. Approval of Minutes of April 04, 2009

A motion was made by Representative Emma Acosta and seconded by Representative Eddie Holguin to approve the Minutes of April 04, 2009. The motion passed.

AYES: Representative Holguin, Robinson, Acosta, & O'Rourke
NAYES: None
NOT PRESENT: N/A

3. Discussion and action on requesting \$100,000 for MHMR every year from CDBG funds. [Representative Eddie Holguin, District 6, 915-541-4178]

Please see motion below

4. Discussion and action on entering into an interlocal agreement/contract with the City of El Paso and the MH/MR Sun City Employee Assistance Program for all non uniform employees of the City of El Paso. [Representative Eddie Holguin, District 6, 915-541-4178]

David Almonte gave a brief summary on this item followed by questions from the Representatives.

Motion made by Representative Acosta, seconded by Representative Robinson that the City Manager and designee to review and see if there is an inner-agency arrangement that would allow to accept an unsolicited proposal that is reasonable, meet the City's needs, is equally cost effective and bring back to council if need be.

AYES: Representative Acosta, Holguin, Robinson, & O'Rourke
NAYES: None
NOT PRESENT: N/A

5. Discussion and action on whether to deed the City building that houses MH/MR (3410 Morenci Ave.) to MHMR. [Representative Eddie Holguin, District 6, 915-541-4178]

Please see motion below

6. Discussion and action on other opportunities or other types of collaborations between MH/MR and the City of El Paso including but not limited to mental health crisis management with the police department, and other types of arrangements that the City can make for mentally ill people who are in crisis and who are in police custody or in the County jail. [Representative Eddie Holguin, District 6, 915-541-4178]