

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Meeting Held Monday, May 27th, 2014
City Hall, 301 WEST SECOND STREET, in the Boards & Commissions Room,
301 West Second Street, Austin. TX

Call Meeting to Order at 3:05 pm.

Committee Members Present:

1. Council Member Mike Martinez
2. Council Member Chris Riley
3. Council Member Laura Morrison

Also in attendance Council Member Kathie Tovo

1. Review and approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014.

Motion by Council Member Riley, seconded by Council Member Martinez to approve the Minutes of the Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014, seconded by Council Member Riley, motion carries, 2-0 with Council Member Morrison temporarily absent.

2. Citizen Communications.

Paula McDermott – Sustainable Food Policy Board

3. Briefing on substance use disorders, short term and long term needs, collaborative strategies, and recommendations (Sherri Fleming, County Executive, Health and Human Services and Veterans Service, Travis County; David Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Austin Travis County Integral Care; Carlos Rivera, Director, HHSD).

The panel, including Sherri Fleming, David Evans, Carlos Rivera, and Pete Valdez (*Director, Downtown Community Court*) presented on substance use disorders and requested funding consideration to address the problem in our community. The Committee expressed support and had several questions follow up questions.

4. Briefing by One Voice Central Texas on the increasing income disparities in Austin and its impact on the social services network and people they serve (Julia Spann, Executive Director, SafePlace; Angela Atwood, Executive Director, College Houses).

A presentation was made on the growing need for social services funding and resources. CM Riley referred to the “suburbanization of poverty” as a growing municipal issue, exemplified by the lack of affordable housing. CM Morrison mentioned Saturday, May 31st, as an open Council/Citizen meeting opportunity to discuss basis needs with Council Members and the public.

5. Briefing regarding the City Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Maria Allen, Program Manager, HHSD).

Staff made a presentation on the SNAP program. CM Martinez asked if we are working with the Capital Area Food Bank, staff replied yes. CM Morrison asked staff keep track of the dollars we are bringing into the community. Staff said we track the number of clients so should be doable to track the dollars. Council asked that staff look to connect SNAP work with Austin Energy, Affordable Care Act enrollment activities, and Family Resource Centers (AISD).

Citizen Speakers

Kathy Green – Capital Area Food Bank

Mindy Cooper

6. Consider agenda items for next regular meeting, scheduled for 3:00 pm on Tuesday, June 17th, 2014, or at the call of the committee chair.

Adjourned at 4:48pm