

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Health and Human Services Committee	Item ID	42424	Agenda Number	4.
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Meeting Date:	3/16/2015	Department:	Health and Human Services
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**Subject**

Briefing regarding pending public health and human services issues that may require future council action: municipally issued identification cards; plan to implement a social services index; report regarding social services contracts subject to the current living wage; comprehensive improvements to the social services request for application process; support for immigration reform; strategies to improve the mental health stakeholder process; social services funding; report regarding temporary food permits; the Women’s and Children’s Shelter project; and the shared Montopolis PARD/HHSD facility project.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

**Fiscal Note**

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

**Additional Backup Information**

- Municipally Issued Identification Cards - Council Item Update Report (CIUR) # 1511**

Council directed the Manager to appoint an administrator, create a task force, and conduct a study that includes stakeholder feedback, designs program rules and processes, and provides associated costs. In response to Resolution # 20140807-102, Health and Human Services (HHSD) staff conducted community stakeholder meetings. The results of the meetings brought consensus that many Austin residents can benefit from a municipally issued identification card. This topic was discussed several years ago that resulted in the Matricula Consular Card being widely accepted. A response from HHSD as the lead is due March 25, 2015. The resolution requests action from staff within 180 days (June 2015).
- Social Service Index - Council Item Update Report (CIUR) # 1352**

Council requires the Manager to annually increase social services contracts in an equal amount to or greater than the Consumer Price Index and annually increase \$ for HHSD in the amount equal to or greater than the annual percent increase of population growth. Council adopted investing \$15,763,307 of additional funds for social

service contracts and investing \$12,840,870 in additional funding to HHSD within 3-5 years in response to Resolution # 20140626-078, which directed staff to develop recommendations whether the current funding levels for HHSD and social service contracting are sufficient to meet the needs of the community. The results of this work and the presentation to the Public Health Committee resulted in the passing of the resolution. The City Manager shall develop an implementation plan to reach these goals. The resolution requests action from staff by May 1, 2015.

3. **Living Wage - Council Item Update Report (CIUR) # 1477**

Council directs the City Manager to prepare a report for social services contracts subject to the current living wage. The report should identify the number of social service contracts, the social service provider's employees working on or under those contracts being paid less than a living wage, and cost associated with closing the gap. Resolution # 20141120-087 is related to the City of Austin adoption of a living wage standard that includes employees and contractors. This resolution expands that process by requesting staff to provide information on social services providers that could possibly meet the living wage standard. A response from HHSD as the lead was due February 18, 2015. The resolution requests a report from staff within 180 days (May 2015).

4. **RFA Stakeholder Process - Council Item Update Report (CIUR) # 1479**

The City Manager is directed to hold a stakeholder process to; 1) determine if grant writing would be a benefit for the City and the feasibility of grant writing services to assist organizations in future processes; 2) determine if there should be a weighted process for long term partners that have provided continuous services, with preferential weight given to collaborative or individual applications; 3) determine a process for current single source providers of essential services; 4) identify gaps in services to consider during the upcoming budget process so service providers can take a comprehensive approach to recommending improvements to the social service Request for Application (RFA) process. HHSD in collaboration with the Purchasing Department conducted a RFA. Prior to this solicitation process, staff conducted information from the community to develop the framework, inform the scope of work and receive input on funding recommendations. Following the RFA process, the Public Health and Human Service Committee requested a stake holder process to improve the next process slated for about 2020. HHSD staff solicited feedback following the Request for Proposal (RFP) process in 2010. This feedback was incorporated in the RFA process for 2014. The Department lead due date is 04/15/2015. The resolution requires a response in 180 days (June 2015).

5. **Resolution Support: President Obama - Council Resolution # 20140320-049**

This is in support of President Obama's executive action of November 20, 2014. It endorses the mission of the Cites United for Immigration Action Coalition, which supports President Obama's executive action and continuing efforts. Resolution supports Welcoming Cities, urging U.S. Congress to enact legislation re: comprehensive immigration reform, and opposing the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Secure Communities program. The City Council strongly supports President Obama in his executive action on November 20, 2014, and is fully supportive of his administration's future efforts to effect comprehensive federal immigration reform. HHSD provides support to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs. The Commission continues to work on immigration and will likely bring such issues to the attention of the Public Health Committee.

6. **Mental Health Stakeholder Process - Council Item Update Report (CIUR) # 1507**

The City Manager is directed to convene social service providers and other stakeholders on strategies to improve the local client's connection to services prior to discharge from state owned mental health facilities and report back to council with their findings. This is in response to the increase in the number of homeless people being discharged from the Austin State Hospital. The goal of this process is to address issues associated with mental health through active engagement with Austin/Travis County Integral Care, and local social service and housing providers.

7. **Social Services \$1 Million Find - Council Resolution # 20141120-094**

The City Manager is directed to incorporate an additional \$1 million in funding in the proposed budgets brought to Council consideration beginning in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 through the end of the social service contracts. On November 20, 2014, Council approved social service contracts through the Health and Human Services Department that will go into effect on September 1, 2015. Currently the contracts need one million dollars to be executed per Council Action.

**8. Temporary Food Permits**

A cost of service study was conducted, proving the need for higher fees and more staff, subsequently passed in the 2014-2015 budget. The action was then rescinded by City Council on February 26, 2015. The Council requests rescinding the current fee structure, further study, and a report back within several months.

**9. Women's and Children's Shelter**

A 2012 Bond project to renovate the HHSD Campus. Project addresses critical facility needs and expansion, including fire suppression system, dining room expansion, & code compliant kitchen. This project will include a residential increase in bed occupancy by at least 20, a new childcare facility, and site planning and renovation of the existing facility for better client and staff program needs. 2012 Bond funding is \$3,800,300. This project is in the design phase.

**10. Montopolis PARD/HHSD facility**

A 2012 Bond project to build a multipurpose facility shared by Parks Dept. and HHSD. HHSD portion will include neighborhood center, clothes closet, emergency food pantry, Senior Nutrition Program space, offices and youth program area. Funding for this 2012 Bond project is divided between Parks (\$11,780,000) and HHSD (\$3,720,000). Some community concerns were strongly expressed.