Mill Levy Advisory Council
Discussion Call Meeting Minutes
7.31.2020 12:00-1:00PM

Present: Courtney Foss (Co-chairperson)
JJ Tomash (Co-Chairperson)
Tim Lomas
Amy Becerra (RMHS delegate)

Guests: Tami Rael, DHS
Mimi Scheuermann, DHS
Stacy Portillo, DHS
Whitney Nettleton, DHS
Melissa Emery, RMHS
Cindy Stevens, parent
Arnie Swenson

Absent: Kendall Rames
King Viteron
Lauren Weinstock (CAC Member)
Brittany Murdock
Linda Brooks (Council advocate)

Staff: Crystal Porter
Ginger Vigil
Amy Packer

I. Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Courtney Foss on Microsoft Teams, a virtual online meetings platform.

*Housekeeping:* JJ Tomash states he needs to leave early due to another commitment.

Tim Lomas asked for clarification of term limits.

II. Purpose of Topic Call

To discuss needs and various housing opportunities Denver residents with IDD

III. Discussion (led by Courtney Foss)

This follow up meeting allows the Council to dig deeper into the housing topic and what further needs exist. This could be purchasing housing specifically for IDD individuals, supporting initiatives for a voucher system, and supporting landlords with IDD individuals using vouchers living in their properties. There is real interest in a voucher program.

- How would we want a voucher system to look and what do we need to move forward with a recommendation for that?

- What are the needs in Denver and what would a good housing system look like?
- How many people are not getting their housing needs met in Denver?
- How would we manage people moving back to Denver to take advantage of a robust housing program if it's created? Would we need someone to live in Denver a certain number of years before eligible?
- How would we adjust funding as housing prices increase? Percentages vs flat dollar amounts?
- What criteria should we put in place for a voucher program? Age, income, physical, emotional or psychological needs?

Could use the housing report recommendation to gather some of this information, as well as research other states to see what is being offered. Would be helpful to have Council members volunteer to investigate various resources to see what additional information needs to be gathered to move forward.

States such as Florida and Nevada have programs for specific housing for IDD individuals; one a housing site just for individuals with IDD and the other a part of the waiver program that covers costs over the individual’s ability to pay for housing.

Currently housing stability programs exist within the Mill Levy structure.

A) Pain Points

Members of the Council with more extensive knowledge unable to attend to lend their voice to this topic. Housing prices in Denver are high and could be causing people to move out of Denver to afford housing. Important to consider whether a robust voucher system could be used to move into Denver so they might have access to programs and services offered to Denver residents with the dedicated mill levy fund.

B) Action Items

DHS – Gather existing voucher program information and distribute to Council.

DHS – Reach out to Council member King Viteron to bring in information he can share from the section 8 housing vouchers utilized at Denver Housing Authority.

DHS – Add term limit discussion to agenda for next meeting.

Council – At next meeting, determine who has bandwidth to assist with housing research.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment

V. Adjournment

Housing discussion call adjourned at 12:43pm