The Council meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Co-chairperson Ann Pierce at Fleming Mansion, 1200 Federal Blvd. Denver, Colorado.

**Introductions & Minutes Review**

The meeting opened with a brief welcome, followed by introductions from the Council members, Denver Human Services (DHS) staff, and guests. The Council reviewed minutes from the previous meeting held on 06-18-2019. Motion to approve made by Kate Williams and seconded by Lauren Weinstock. Minutes approved 5-0-0.

**Information Sharing and DHS Updates**

Kate Williams shared information about the recently launched RTD low-income fare program, called LiVE which provides 40% discounts for those that qualify. Families are encouraged to apply on PEAK, Colorado state’s benefits site, once the program begins on July 29. Information about the program can be found on the RTD website. Tim Lomas shared details about a visit he made to RMHS mill levy subcontractor Pizzability, which he described as awesome. Mr. Lomas encouraged those in attendance to visit the restaurant in Cherry Creek. He also mentioned Brewability Lab (Pizzability’s sister company) will be moving from Northeast Denver down to Englewood on South Broadway near Hampton. Brewability Lab intends to host a kickoff party, and plans to have regular open mic nights at the
brewery. Mr. Lomas did not have an RMHS Community Advisory Council update, since that group had not met since the last DHS Mill Levy Advisory Council meeting June 18.

DHS gave updates across a variety of topics and activities related to the mill levy program:

- Distributed typed notes from the website and resource connectivity discussion on June 18 and shared that DRCOG’s Network of Care is undergoing a platform update.
- Announced DHS staff are midway through the drafting process for the proposed Inclusion RFP, to be posted late July. The RFP will be open for 3-4 weeks. DHS will send an announcement out once the RFP is live and encourages Council members and members of the public to forward the email to anyone they believe may be interested. DHS’s goal is to share the RFP as broadly as possibly.
- Recapped the continued development of materials that may help Denver residents understand the mill levy and connect with services, as well as the Advisory Council, per the Council’s recommendations from the meeting on April 19. DHS made a final call for notes on the proposed information page and gave an update on the anticipated draft for information cards, which will be presented at the upcoming August 1 meeting.
- Reminded the Council they have until Wednesday, July 17 to respond to the surveys sent out to gather more information on the appeals board, website directory, and feedback loop recommendations. A discussion for the appeals board recommendation is planned for August 1.
- Shared details on an upcoming tailgate event hosted by Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education on June 25.

DHS also requested immediate feedback from the Council on mini grants, a funding possibility DHS is beginning to explore which could expand the mill levy’s reach across a variety of residents and organizations. Mini grants would be structured so that they were not at risk of duplicating the current client and family assistance program contracted with Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS). DHS is in very early stages and wanted to hear thoughts from the Council on this idea. Tim Lomas asked what amounts the grants would be. DHS shared that potential grants could be modest and cited past DHS mini grants in other programs which fell in the $500-1500 range. Kate Williams recommended DHS look at the Colorado Common Grant which is a similar model. Members overall expressed support for this idea, and DHS plans to further investigate mini grants as a mill levy fund option.

**Discussion [Subcommittees]**

Ann Pierce asked each subcommittee to give a short update on their work since the last meeting, and each group reported out.

**Housing: Tim Lomas, Lauren Weinstock, Kendall Rames**

Lauren Weinstock and Tim Lomas referenced meetings they had attended through Developmental Pathways, the Arapahoe and Douglas counties Community Centered Board. Their plans to attend these meetings were noted at the last Council meeting on June 18. Ms. Weinstock and Mr. Lomas both expressed interest in engaging Desiree Kameka with Madison House Autism Foundation, who they met
through these meetings, as a potential subject matter expert. Mr. Lomas mentioned the meeting he attended discussed many housing models and that conversations helped address fears about security that individuals, parents, and families may feel. Ms. Weinstock mentioned a 5-part video series this subcommittee shared out to the Council via email, which can be found online at https://youtu.be/ePlncJcPu5U.

The Housing subcommittee requested a community meeting on housing and that DHS look into speaking fees for subject matter experts.

**Transition Services: Ann Pierce, Betty Lehman, Kate Williams**

Betty Lehman provided an update on the Transition Services subcommittee, with Ann Pierce and Kate Williams giving supportive comments and answering questions from Council members. Ms. Lehman said the subcommittee discussed transitions beyond the recognized age group of 14-21. This subcommittee talked about the cliff effect which can happen when families drop off one service only to fall into another - this can happen across ages and systems. Ms. Lehman said in some states special education services are available through age 26.

Two ideas this subcommittee explored are: 1) mill levy funds be used to provide services beyond waiver caps on services, such as for employment or behavior services, to be provided as the state works on the Waiver Redesign. 2) FSSP funding which may be limited by lack of state program funding. [FSSP funds families that are between Early Intervention services and waiver services.] Jennifer Beck, the RMHS delegate, responded that RMHS programs are contracted to provide mill levy services for unmet needs. Ms. Williams stated details are hard to find and asked DHS and RMHS to ensure the information is more readily available. Kendall Rames asked the subcommittee how ‘readiness’ would be determined. The subcommittee acknowledged they have not explored this yet. Ms. Beck shared the RMHS website is undergoing a redesign, and that the best way for families to get connected is to ask their resource coordinator about services.

**Mental Health: Kendall Rames, J.J. Tomash, Lauren Weinstock (added at the meeting upon request)**

Kendall Rames shared the Mental Health subcommittee is learning about an intensive program that was piloted with the State and discontinued due to costs. The state passed a statue for this pilot that funded $2 million dollars over 2 years. In that time, the pilot served about 35 clients. The return on investment in year 1 was low. The results of the pilot were inspiring. Lauren Weinstock shared that the subcommittee is considering recommending a model where DHS considers starting with a few organizations, and then expanding the program’s reach in the second year. The subcommittee intends to get more information.

**Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)**

Amy Packer, Assistant City Attorney with DHS revisited questions from the Council on subject matter experts (SMEs) from June 18. Ms. Packer emphasized the Council’s information gathering role, as well as the need to avoid even appearances of impropriety or conflict of interest, which the Council has
discussed in prior meetings. She gave examples of how the subcommittees might engage community members:

- An individual member of the Council can meet with a community member and can bring information back in a report out at Subcommittee meetings and the full Mill Levy Advisory Council meetings. This helps these members collect information on the needs of the community.
- An individual member of the Council can engage SMEs one-on-one and report out.
- SMEs would not sit in on Subcommittee meetings but can be scheduled to present at open meetings. The opportunity would be posted publicly so that other SMEs with the same or similar expertise could also present.
- If a subcommittee plans to host a public meeting (such as a community forum, etc.) that includes SMEs, the opportunity would be posted publicly so SMEs can request a speaking slot.
- Any SME that is directly invited without a public posting would be precluded from bidding on a resulting RFP.

Tim Lomas asked about setting a meeting with his City Councilmember. Ms. Packer mentioned the process would be to meet, learn information, and bring that information to the subcommittee and full Mill Levy Advisory Council in a report out.

Public comment (2 minutes per speaker, up to 20 minutes)

Co-chair Ann Pierce recognized members of the public for comment and called on each person who signed up, before opening it up to anyone else in the remaining minutes. Four public comments were made- the first commenter asked about the mini grants distribution process, as well as the appeals process and potential conflicts of interest in that model. The second commenter discussed their organization and the work they are doing with inclusivity in adult services, including housing, jobs, and education. The third commenter was a professional that talked about their organization and the work they are doing with youth to learn woodworking skills, which they’re expanding to work with youth that have intellectual and developmental disabilities. The fourth commenter acknowledged the transparency of the Council and requested more public engagement opportunities. This commenter also suggested the Council explore ways to fund people not programs and mentioned the DDRC Self-Determination program funded by Jefferson County mill levy dollars.

After public comment concluded, Kate Williams made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Betty Lehman. The Council meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mill Levy Advisory Council sessions are recorded; recordings are usually available upon request. Due to a technical issue at the 7/11 off site meeting, a recording is not available for this date. Please contact DHS’s Mill Levy Program Manager with any clarifying questions related to these minutes.