



COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

4:00 – 6:00 PM

344 Broadway, 4th Floor Meeting Room

Overview

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee will meet to further refine its strategic goals and advance its overall strategy toward fulfilling its purpose and acting on the Guiding Principles set forth in the Community Needs Assessment.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved draft minutes from the 12/05/2017 meeting.

II. Target Populations

The Committee reached consensus that the top priority target population to prioritize is:

- Low-income families (low-income = households and persons with annual incomes \leq 50% of the current area median income) and families in poverty with children, particularly those headed by single women, citywide*
- *Citywide needs to consider neighborhood impact, including:
 - Vulnerability related to development and high levels of poverty - especially families with children in poverty
 - Buffering families that are vulnerable in some way(s) that limit resiliency
 - Building on assets that are neighborhood-based, including relationships among neighbors

Discussion

- Importance of building in/ on social resilience
- “Impacted by development” - how to tease out?
 - Frame as citywide issue that has had differential impact(s)?
- “Citywide”: relative to people living in poverty/that are low-income
- Are we addressing largest population with most needs vs. low(est) hanging fruit to move the needle for some?

III. Strategic Priorities

The Committee reviewed and discussed two alternative iterations of its strategic priorities:

Alternate Take 1	
<i>Ultimate/Long-term impact:</i> (2) Systems change & community engagement	
(3) Increased economic & housing stability	(4) Improved mental & behavioral health supports
<i>Foundation/Precondition:</i> (1) Partnership, coordination, integration of services	
Alternate Take 2	
<i>Ultimate/Long-term impact:</i> Systems change & community engagement	
All Top Tier Needs - with recognition that moving the needle on any will require addressing more than one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased housing stability (Affordable Housing & Homelessness) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased economic stability (Financial Security) • Improved mental & behavioral health supports (Mental Health: Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse) 	
<i>Foundation/Precondition:</i> Partnership, coordination, integration of services	

The Committee reached consensus on the following:

- All top tier needs should be included in the middle section
- The ultimate/long-term outcome should be about impact on the target population(s), and poverty alleviation and “social resiliency” are both closer to the articulation the Committee wants

Discussion

- Poverty alleviation as ultimate long-term impact
 - Poverty alleviation and “social resiliency”
 - If we are serving low-income families, they are not in poverty, so poverty alleviation is not possible?
 - Linked to economic and housing stability so that change is not based on people priced out of the city - i.e., poverty alleviation/ social resiliency for families that already live in Cambridge
- Should we be thinking about it as a safety net/ basic floor of services that everyone in Cambridge should get
 - e.g. “every child in Cambridge is entitled to these things...”
- How do we attend to structural issues that are part of systems change?
- At what level(s) are we looking for systems change?
- Be clear about naming process changes that go along with impact/ changes that are more specific as a result of this funding?
 - How will people’s lives change as a result of this strategy?
- Top tier needs - “stability” vs. “supports” vs. [some better alternative]
- What is measurement/ criteria for achievement
- (1) as foundation/ precondition
- Community engagement - include as part of foundation/ precondition (1)

IV. Next Meeting & Next Steps

- Reach decision around individuals as a secondary target population - seniors/ elders and/or low-income individuals (or families with individuals) that demonstrate all three top-tier needs
- Continue discussion by revisiting, and defining and refining, as needed, “poverty alleviation and social resiliency”
- Finalize and reach consensus on strategic priorities

The Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 16th and Monday, January 29th from 9-11 am.

Committee Members Present

- Lisa Peterson, Chair
- Sandra Clarke
- Susan Lapierre
- Daniel Liss
- Risa Mednick
- Rowan Murphy
- Paul Parravano
- Amy Salomon
- Ellen Semonoff

Committee Members Absent

- Elizabeth Aguilo
- Kathryn Fenneman
- Cibele Goncalves
- Geeta Pradhan

Facilitator

- Daniel Michaud Weinstock, *dmw360 consulting*

Committee Staff

- Wendell Joseph

There were no members of the public in attendance.