

**QUALITY OF LIFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015  
1:00 P.M.  
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, *Chair, District 8*  
Councilmember Roberto Treviño, *District 1*  
Councilmember Alan Warrick, *District 2*  
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*

---

**Members Absent:** Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

---

**Staff Present:** Erik Walsh, *Deputy City Manager*; Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Assistant City Manager*; Hollis Young, *Deputy City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Stephen Whitworth, *Assistant City Attorney*; Joe MacKay, *Deputy Chief of Police*; John Dugan, *Director, Planning and Community Development*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Department of Human Services*; Xavier Urrutia, *Director, Department of Parks and Recreation*; Richard Keith, *Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Vincent Nathan, *Assistant Director, Metro Health*; Tom Morgan, *Grants Administrator, Planning and Community Development*; Denice F. Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

---

**Also Present:** Mark Carmona, *CEO, Haven for Hope*; Antonio Fernandez, *CEO, Catholic Charities*; Margaret Constantino, *Director, Center for Refugee Services*; Jann Fractor, *Assistant Director, Center for Refugee Services*; Paula Walker, *Director, Catholic Charities*; Stephanie Wiese, *Vice President, Habitat for Humanity*

**Call to order**

Chairman Nirenberg called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens registered to speak.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Quality of Life Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**3. Briefing and Discussion on Refugee Support Services in San Antonio.** [J. Antonio Fernandez, President/CEO, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.; Margaret Constantino, M.A., LPC, Director, Center for Refugee Services]

Richard Keith stated that Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc. (CC) was the designated Grantee for Federal Funds to support Refugee Resettlement Services in San Antonio.

Antonio Fernandez reported that over 1,000 Refugees came to San Antonio annually to escape violence in their country. He stated that there were 15.3 million Refugees Worldwide and 80% of those were Women and Children. He noted that an estimated 70,000 Refugees would be admitted into the United States (U.S.) in 2015. He stated that Refugees coming to San Antonio were classified in the following categories:

1. Refugees contracted with the Federal Government
2. Refugees which were unexpected
3. Refugees entering the U.S. from other countries

Mr. Fernandez noted that every Refugee entering the U.S. was: 1) Registered with the United Nations; 2) Interviewed by the Department of Homeland Security; 3) Cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigations; 4) Directed to undergo Health Screenings; and 5) Assigned to one of several National Voluntary Agencies. He described the typical Refugee and the following additional services provided by CC:

- Reception and placement
- Health Screening
- Employment Services
- Cultural Orientations
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Services

Mr. Fernandez noted that the following additional services were provided by CC:

- School Services
- Integration Services
- Volunteers and Donations
- Interpretation and Translation Services
- Social Adjustment Services
- Services for the most vulnerable Clients beyond initial resettlement

Mr. Fernandez reported that last year, CC provided services to over 700 Refugees and stated that CC was required to report Outcome Measures to the Federal Government. He noted that an estimated \$25,000 was required per month to assist a Refugee Family through donations and said services were provided for six months. He stated that CC partnered with other Faith-Based Entities, Schools, and Hospitals. He noted the lack of Housing for said Refugees and highlighted the importance of partnerships and collaborations to assist in providing Refugee Services.

Margaret Constantino stated that the Center for Refugee Services (CRS) was a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization located in City Council District 8 near the Medical Center and within walking distance of six Apartment Complexes where 3,500 Refugees resided. She noted that CRS was established in 2010, and emphasized service to Refugees after their first six months in the U.S. She reported that CRS served 400 and 600 Clients in 2013 and 2014, respectively. She noted that CRS was not grant-funded and was supported by private donations. She listed the following concerns in the delivery of services to Refugees:

- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Single Mothers without a Support System for Childcare and Affordable Housing

Ms. Constantino recommended that a Task Force be established by the Committee in which the members would interact with Refugees to address said concerns.

Councilmember Warrick excused himself from the meeting at this time.

Chairman Nirenberg stated that he supported the implementation of Best Practices for the City and the establishment of a Task Force to address concerns associated with Refugee Services.

Councilmember Treviño asked how the language barrier was addressed. Mr. Fernandez replied that CC was seeking to identify a local entity which could provide Translation Services. He suggested that Infographics be utilized to present information to Refugees.

Chairman Nirenberg requested a meeting with staff to discuss the City's role as a coordinating entity for Refugee Services.

No action was required for Item 3.

**4. Briefing and Discussion on City of San Antonio Homeless Services and Related Policies.**  
[Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Richard Keith stated that the City was engaged in the funding, direct operation, and policy development for Homeless Services. He noted that \$8 million was funded by the City annually to support Homeless Services provided at Haven for Hope and other entities. He stated that the City served as a Direct Operator to provide the following Homeless Services:

- Homelessness Prevention
- Fair Housing and Housing Counseling
- Rental and Utility Assistance

Mr. Keith noted that the City partnered with the community's Homeless Continuum of Care Entity; the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH). He stated that said entity served as a forum for major providers of Homeless Services and Stakeholders to improve services and address Policy Issues. He noted that the City has partnered with SARAH on the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness (Challenge). He reported that the Department of Human Services (DHS) partnered with other City Departments to address Homeless Feeding. He stated that as part of said Challenge, the City partnered with 12 Veteran Service Organizations to streamline the Intake, Triage and Service Processes utilized to serve Homeless Veterans and to transition them into permanent housing. He noted that the City's current Annual Point-in-Time Count, which was held in January of each year, identified 280 Homeless Veterans in the community. He stated that DHS and the City Attorney's Office were researching Best Practices, policies, and regulations of Homeless Feeding of comparative cities. He indicated that staff would provide a complete analysis and recommendations for Homeless Feeding Regulations to the Committee in late Summer. Shreya Shah provided details of the Comparative Analysis of Best Practices performed to date.

Chairman Nirenberg noted that the City did not have a policy to address Homeless Feeding and stated that he supported the development of a comprehensive strategy to address Homeless Feeding. He asked if a Point-in-Time Count could be performed by the City in the summer. Gloria Hurtado replied that a Point-in-Time Count could be performed in the summer.

Councilmember Treviño requested an itemization of the \$8 million Budget allocated by the City to provide Homeless Services. Ms. Hurtado stated that said itemization would be provided to the Committee. Councilmember Treviño asked of the number of Graduates of Haven for Hope. Mark Carmona reported that there were 2,200 Graduates of Haven for Hope. Councilmember Treviño emphasized the need to provide shelter for the Homeless in addition to that provided by Haven for Hope. Mark Carmona stated that Haven for Hope provided daily outreach to the Homeless in the community and noted the high level of trauma experienced by their Clients.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the levels of service and support services provided by Haven for Hope. Mr. Carmona provided details of the levels of service and support services provided by Haven for Hope.

No action was required for Item 4.

- 5. The Item Presents for Possible Action the Proposed FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, FY 2016 Action Plan and Budget, and the FY 2016 and FY 2017 REnewSA Target Areas to Include Administering Programs Funded Through the City's Four U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant Programs Including the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Grant.** [John Dugan, Director, Planning and Community Development; Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager]

John Dugan reviewed the FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, FY 2016 Action Plan, and the FY 2016 and FY 2017 REnewSA Target Area Budgets which were discussed at the May 12, 2015 Committee Meeting. He stated that adjustments were made to the Budget for the Department of Parks and

Recreation Summer Youth Programs and the Brownfield Remediation as the result of discussions held at the last meeting. He reviewed the criteria for selection of the REnewSA Target Areas (Target Areas) and the proposed Target Areas. He noted that Councilmember Warrick requested consideration the designation of Dignowity Hill and the surrounding area as a Target Area. He stated that designation of said area as the Near East Hill Target Area would reduce funding to the other proposed Target Areas from \$514,000 to \$446,000 each. He stated that staff did not support the designation of the Near East Hill as a Target Area. He noted that the Public Hearings for the Annual Action Plan would be held on June 17, 2015 and August 5, 2015. He stated that adoption of the Target Areas would not have to be made until September 2015.

Chairman Nirenberg suggested that staff discuss the addition of the Near East Hill Target Area and the financial implications for the other proposed Target Areas with Councilmember Warrick. Mr. Dugan replied that this item would be discussed further at the next Committee Meeting. Chairman Nirenberg expressed support for the proposed Target Areas recommended by staff. He asked of the revisions to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget. Mr. Dugan stated that \$208,282 was added to the proposed CDBG Budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Youth Program and \$64,140 was added to the proposed CDBG Budget for the Community Center Extended Hours Program.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for the proposed Target Areas recommended by staff.

Councilmember Treviño moved to approve and forward the proposed FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, FY 2016 Action Plan and Budget, and the FY 2016 and FY 2017 REnewSA Target Areas to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

---

*Ron Nirenberg, Chair*

---

*Denice F. Treviño  
Office of the City Clerk*