

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2019  
10:00 A.M.  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>District 8</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Colleen Bridger, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Alma Lozano, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Victoria Shum, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Stephen Whitworth, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Heber Lefgren, <i>Director, Animal Care Services</i> ; David McCary, <i>Director, Solid Waste Management</i> ; David Newman, <i>Deputy Director, Solid Waste Management</i> ; Melody Woosley, <i>Director, Human Services Department</i> ; Homer Garcia, <i>Interim Director, Parks &amp; Recreation</i> ; Audrey Jackson, <i>Head Start Administrator, Department of Human Services</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	John Butchkosky, <i>Community Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs</i> ; Eloy LaQue, <i>Governmental Relations Coordinator, VIA</i> ; Lauren Lederle, <i>Conservation Information Specialist, Texas Nature Conservancy</i> ; Cecilia Picazo, <i>SAWS</i> ; Annalisa Peace, <i>Executive Director, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance</i> ; Angela Rodriguez, <i>Director, Climate &amp; Sustainability, CPS Energy</i> ; Dr. Francine Romero, <i>Chairwoman, EAPP Conservation Advisory Board</i>

**Call to order**

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the Minutes for the November 18, 2019 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan moved to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2019 Community Health and Equity Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Briefing on the Human Services Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Programs and Fiscal Activities for December 2019.** [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, *Assistant City Manager*; Melody Woosley, *Director, Human Services*]

Melody Woosley reported that the governance responsibility for the Head Start Program would be transitioning from the Community Health and Equity Council Committee to the Community Action Advisory Board in partnership with the Parent Policy Council as required by Head Start Regulations. She added that major items would continue to require City Council approval and the Community Health and Equity Council Committee would continue to receive Head Start Program updates at least twice a year.

Ms. Woosley presented the following Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Programs for action by the Community Health and Equity Committee:

1. **DHS Head Start Program 2019 Community Assessment Update for Approval:** Ms. Woosley reported that Head Start Performance Standards required the program to conduct a full Community Assessment once every five years, with annual updates. She stated that the Head Start program conducted a full, initial Community Assessment in 2015 and that her current presentation would mark the fourth annual update of the 5-Year Strategic Plan.
2. **DHS Head Start Program 5-Year Strategic Plan for Approval:** Ms. Woosley discussed the following components of the annual update:
  - Grantee profile: Children at or below the federal poverty line to prepare children and engage families for school readiness and lifelong success;
  - Demographic profile of the local service areas: Edgewood Independent School District (EISD), and San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD); and
  - Health, education, nutrition, and social service needs.
3. **2020-2021 DHS Head Start Program Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) Policies for Approval:** Ms. Woosley reported that the 2020-2021 ERSEA Policy Updates were reviewed and approved by the Head Start Policy Council on November 19, 2019 and that nine policies were updated (ERSEA 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,10 and 11). She stated that the five new goals were: 1) Education; 2) Family Support; 3) Health; 4) Environmental Health and Safety; and 5) Highly Qualified Staff. She said that 30 new objectives were added and objectives which were met were revised accordingly.
4. **DHS Head Start Program Governance Policy Update for Approval:** Ms. Woosley discussed a proposed update to the Governance Policy which would identify the Community Action Advisory Board as the reviewing body of the Head Start Program. She presented the proposed new shared governance structure with the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) to be appointed as the Program's governing body. She stated that the CAAB would take over the Head Start Program responsibilities currently held by the Community Health and Equity Council Committee, to include approval of enrollment and eligibility processes, strategic planning, community assessment annual reporting, and various policies and procedures.
5. **Briefing on the October 2019 DHS, Head Start Program Update and Fiscal Report -** Ms. Woosley provided the Early Head Start Program Budget information:
  - **Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership:** \$3.5 million was expended at the end of the fiscal year, October 31, 2019
  - **Head Start:** \$29.7 million was expended, which is on target for the upcoming end of the fiscal year, January 31, 2020

Ms. Woosley concluded with an update on the Tri-Annual Federal Review of the Head Start Program. She stated that the Federal Office of the Head Start Program conducted its review through a series of five telephone interviews which took place last week. She stated that the results of the review would be released at the end of January, 2020.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked why the Child Plus Database Program was no longer utilized. Audrey Jackson replied that an updated paperless system was now in place to best facilitate communication across the teams.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan voiced concern for lack of Head Start Program representation for District 1 and for diverse representation for the City as a whole. Ms. Jackson stated that vacancies were posted for new community member positions and that staff would engage with the Office of Equity to foster improved representation and diversity.

Councilmember Peláez moved to approve the DHS Head Start Program 2019 Community Assessment Update, the DHS Head Start Program 5-Year Strategic Plan, the 2020-2021 DHS Head Start Program ERSEA Policies, and the DHS Head Start Program Governance Policy Update. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Briefing on the Annual Report for the Edwards Aquifer Protection and Linear Creekway Programs for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.** [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, *Assistant City Manager*; Homer Garcia III, *Interim Director, Parks and Recreation*]

Homer Garcia stated that the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) and the Linear Creekway Programs (LCP) both share a 1/8-cent sales tax. He noted that in May 2015, voters renewed the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program in the amount of \$100 million which included \$10 million dedicated for water quality projects within urbanized areas of Bexar County. He stated that since program inception, 159,903 acres came under the protection of the City's aquifer protection program, including 5,000 acres protected for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. He noted that the 5,000 acres were obtained through Proposition 1 Funding for the \$20.5 million purchase consisting of 2 land purchases and 6 conservation easements. He stated that the funding also included three Water Quality Projects, two at UTSA and one at Texas A&M University.

Mr. Garcia cited the 2019 updated program assessment performed by Logistics Management Institute (LMI) Analysis. He stated that the analysis determined that 295,000 acres would require protection to meet San Antonio's water demand of 105 billion gallons by 2070 and would require protection of an additional 56,000 acres of land.

Mr. Garcia discussed the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System and stated that 70 miles of Greenway Trails have been completed with another 33 miles under construction or design since program inception through September 30, 2019. He stated the 11-member Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board oversees the Program's investments. He cited many FY 2019 accomplishments to include new trail heads, extensive tree plantings, low impact design features and sculptures, parking spaces, and the addition of park improvements such as water basins, butterfly gardens, basketball courts, and picnic areas.

No action was required for Item 3.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Annalisa Peace stated that it was the consensus of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance members (GEAA) to ensure that the EAPP would continue to be funded through sales tax. She added that the EAPP was a national model program.

Dr. Francine Romero highlighted the success of the EAPP both nationally and internationally. She stated that 30% of the land over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone was protected, which consisted of 50% of the total current land available for protection. She emphasized that protecting water through the purchase of easements and the purchase of land itself instead of regulation was the cleanest and simplest strategy.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of the EAPP fund balance. Mr. Garcia replied that the \$25 million cap would be reached in early FY 2021. She asked what would be the next step once the \$25 million cap was reached. Mr. Garcia stated there would still be adequate funds and adequate lead time to focus on development in the very popular areas of eastern Medina County and eastern Bexar County where land was already under protection. Colleen Bridger added that in the past when the cap was met, a measure would be presented to the voters for approval of another Sales Tax Proposition and another cap.

Councilmember Peláez referenced the Logistics Management Institute (LMI) Analysis Report recommendation that an additional 56,000 acres of land would be needed in FY 2070 to meet San Antonio's water demand. He asked if the acquisition by the City of 56,000 acres of land would be the final land demand. Dr. Bridger replied that meeting the objective of acquiring the 56,000 acres would provide the City with enough drinking water to serve the estimated number of people residing in San Antonio in 2070. He requested an itemized breakdown of acreage purchased and acreage easements with the price difference between both. Mr. Garcia said he would provide the information.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how many acres of land purchased by the City and located within Bexar County were opened as a park or recreational area. Grant Ellis replied that a vast majority of the land was transferred to the State and had become part of Government Canyon State Natural Area or was now managed by City Parks & Recreation. She requested a percentage breakdown of the land transferred to the State and the land managed by Parks & Recreation. Mr. Ellis stated that he would provide the information. She requested a comparison to other cities of the length of time taken from acquisition to full development.

**4. A review of the public engagement process used to inform draft recommendations on the sale of pets within San Antonio, and an update on canine distemper in the community.** [María Villagómez, *Deputy City Manager*; Heber Lefgren, *Director, Animal Care Services*]

Heber Lefgren provided an update to address local concerns on the distemper virus in San Antonio. He stated that the Animal Care Services (ACS) Hold Policy was less than one week long and that typically distemper would not present itself until after a dog had left the shelter. Mr. Lefgren stated that ACS communicated with, and provided assistance to all partners, rescue groups and potential adopters whenever suspected cases of distemper or other life threatening diseases were presented. He said that dogs suspected of having distemper were turned into ACS to be treated by the Chief Veterinarian. He noted that an increase in the number of pets entering the ACS shelter with clinical signs of distemper had caused some local concern; however, he emphasized that the number of reported distemper cases was not considered an outbreak, and that it simply indicated that our community needed to be more diligent in pet care as distemper is 100% avoidable through vaccination. He gave the assurance that adopting or fostering a pet through ACS would not be of concern, as ACS took the following important steps to mitigate the spread of disease:

- Each pet was vaccinated upon intake, prior to entry into the shelter
- Pets were not comingled with other populations
- Puppies were housed separately from adult dogs

- Pets were not overcrowded
- Multiple pets were not kept in a single cage together
- Pets with symptomatic signs were isolated

Mr. Lefgren stated that as an added precaution, ACS and its partners maintained strong lines of communication and also worked collaboratively with nationally recognized best practices subject matter experts. He added that the community was reminded that distemper was completely avoidable through proper vaccination, and that there was no need to fear adopting or helping to foster or rescue pets through ACS.

Mr. Lefgren presented information about the management of the sale of pets. He recalled prior initiatives designed to keep pets safe as follows:

- Prohibiting roadside pet sales (FY 2010): 238 citations issued to date
- Increased enforcement of seller's permit (FY 2017): 235 citations issued to date
- Additional Animal Control Officer hired to proactively target online and roadside sales of Pets (FY 2019) : 417 additional pet sales investigations since April 2019

Mr. Lefgren provided the results of ACS research of nation-wide pet sale regulations held initiated as part of ACS FY 2019 budget strategy. He stated that best practices research demonstrated that in FY 2019, California and Maryland banned the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, and promoted the adoption of rescued pets through commercial pet stores.

Mr. Lefgren stated that ACS conducted the SASpeak Up Pet Sales Survey which was conducted in both English and Spanish and administered through a broad range of advertising efforts resulting in 3,200 survey responses. He reviewed the various survey responses.

Mr. Lefgren stated that staff recommended the following:

- 1) Revise City Code to prohibit the commercial sale of cats and dogs in San Antonio pet stores (exemption for rescued pet adoptions);
- 2) Collect initial and follow up feedback from the Committee as well as ACS Advisory Board; and
- 3) Seek additional community feedback on City Code revisions through a second "SASpeak Up" campaign.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if ACS removed pets who died from distemper from a residence. Mr. Lefgren replied that a pet owner could contact 3-1-1 for removal of the deceased pet. She asked how much revenue was generated from Seller and Breeder Permits. He replied that Permit Fee Revenue was minor.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the ACS process for informing partners and the community during an outbreak. She asked how the City compared with other cities in the handling of disease outbreaks. She asked how many Litter Permits were issued annually. Mr. Lefgren stated that he would provide the information.

Councilmember Peláez stated that a second SASpeak Up Survey Campaign should be focused on Council Districts where excessive loose pets were reported. He stated that due to ACS's limited resources, cross-

departmental collaboration could be a solution. Councilmember Peláez requested that ACS establish a set of targeted cross-departmental goals in collaboration with SAPD. He requested data on the number of cases assisted by SAPD for presentation during the next Budget period.

Chairwoman Sandoval requested that ACS present a target compliance goal and an estimation of budget funding and staffing resources needed to enforce the proposed City Code revisions at the March 2020 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting.

No action was required for Item 4.

**5. Briefing on a minor amendment to Chapter 14 City Code- Collection of Solid Waste Material**  
[Roderick J. Sanchez, *Assistant City Manager*; David W. McCary, *Director, Solid Waste Management*]

David McCary presented the proposed revisions to City Code which clarify circumstances in which development properties would be eligible for Solid Waste Services. He stated that the goal of the amendment was to provide the development community with the City standards for solid waste collection.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve and forward the proposed amendment to Chapter 14 City Code – Collection of Solid Waste Material to the City Council for consideration. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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*Ana Sandoval, Chair*

*Respectfully Submitted*

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*Nancy Cano, Office of the City Clerk*