Date: April 23, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Holliday Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 620 SE Madison

Committee members present: Councilmembers Michael Padilla, Jeff Coen, Michael Lesser

City staff present: Corrie Wright (DNR), Rachelle Vega-Retana (DNA)

Call to Order
Councilmember Coen called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Elect Chair
Councilmember Lesser made a motion to nominate Councilmember Coen as the committee chair. Councilmember Padilla seconded the motion. Motion carried 3:0.

2020 Social Service Grant Process
Corrie Wright with Neighborhood Relations introduced the calendar timeline and the handouts that the committee members received.

Councilmember Coen noted that all of the committee members are new to this committee and the process. Councilmember Coen inquired if it was known how much staff time is dedicated to this review process. Ms. Wright was unsure at the moment but noted that Rachelle Vega-Retana was the main point person for this task.

Councilmember Padilla inquired how many agencies had applied. Ms. Wright noted that there were eighteen (18) agencies, with twenty-four (24) programs.

Councilmember Lesser inquired about the reasoning for two agencies receiving higher funding and what the “grandfathering” process was for. Ms. Wright noted that the decision to allow the Shawnee County Medical Society (SCMS HealthAccess) and Positive Connections was made a few years ago as these two...
agencies are the only ones of their kind and offer services to the community in a different way.

Councilmember Coen called Karla Hedquist, Director with SCMS HealthAccess to provide a little bit of background about the agency and the programs that are funded through the Social Service Grant funding.

Councilmember Coen inquired how much funding is provided by Shawnee County. Ms. Hedquist noted that the County provides $110,000.

Councilmember Coen called Debbie Guilbault with Positive Connections to introduce the services provided through Positive Connections, formerly the Topeka AIDS Project. Ms. Guilbault provided some history regarding the services and programs provided by Positive Connections.

Councilmember Lesser noted that there has been information provided through the Shawnee County Health Agency stating that there has been a large increase in Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and if Positive Connections has been effected by this. Ms. Guilbault noted that they have seen an increase of clients with an additional STD, or clients who have requested additional screening in addition to their HIV screen.

Review Application Process
Councilmember Coen addressed the next agenda item. Corrie Wright introduced the scoring sheet and RFP for the grant. Ms. Wright noted the other programs that committee members will have access to EcImpact which will allow committee members to review applications.

Councilmember Coen inquired if consideration had been made to have an outside party conduct the scoring and review process. Ms. Wright noted that the reviewers are from the community, and are not city staff. Councilmember Coen voiced a concern for the possibility of the scoring process being politicized. Ms. Wright noted that the score sheet has been tailored over the years and seems to be working well and that there seems to be no politics in the reviewing/scoring processes.

Councilmember Lesser noted he would ideally like to see a system where reviewers rotated out after two to three years. This process might allow for a new
perspective and less biased scoring. Ms. Wright noted that discussion at a future meeting could be had regarding the reviewer criteria.

Councilmember Lesser requested the sign in sheet be sent to the committee.

Questions & Answers
None.

Other Items Before the Committee
No other items.

Set Next Meeting Date
The next meeting will occur in May. No specific date set at time of 4/23 meeting.

Adjourn
Councilmember Coen adjourned the meeting.

Meeting video can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/-W3gPBzkWDk