

Social Service PILOT and Comparative Impact Study Committee
Conference Room 2 7:30 PM Memorial Building Framingham, Ma

Minutes

October 6, 2005

Note: If a word or sentence is blue and underlined click for the link.

Attendance: Bob Berman, Yaakov Cohn, Dawn Harkness, Cynthia Laurora., Laurie Lee, Jim Palmer, Nick Sanchez, Steve Orr: Late: Wes Ritchie Absent: Kurt Steinberg

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

Minutes of 9/27//05 meeting: Minutes discussed and approved as corrected.

Dawn Harkness wanted say for the record that she appreciates how much work Laurie Lee does to draft our minutes. They are not verbatim quotes but are the sum and substance of what people are saying. They are the gist of what people are saying and in that spirit I move to approve them.

Vote to approve minutes: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstain

Steve Orr left the meeting at 7:45

Work Group Updates:

Education: Wes was organizing a group meeting with Dr. Martes. Someone in the group should contact Wes and discuss this with him.

Legal: Has not met but will again next week.

Background: The group brought in a draft survey for social service agencies and a draft cover letter.

The letter was discussed in length and motion to approve letter as corrected.

Letter approved as corrected.

Vote to approve: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

The group started review of the social service survey. Reviewing the questions under the General Information heading resulted in some important points relating to types of questions that should be asked:

- Open ended questions with objective answers are best
- Open ended questions with subjective answers are not acceptable
- Subjectivity in general is not acceptable

- Numbers rather than ideas
- Clear answers rather than subjective views
- Everybody will approach answers differently so what good will the information be?
- So ask questions that leaves little room for interpretation.
- Nuts and bolts answers.
- Facts and figures that can be verifiable
- Clear and definitive answers
- Open ended questions are subject to being subjective and given interpretations by people
- Open ended and verifiable

Motion to approve corrected questions in General Information

Vote to approve: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain

General Information

1. Would you provide us with information about your organization?
 - Do you have, and could you provide us with a copy of, a mission statement?
 - What cities and towns are served by your organization?
 - Who or what determines your service area?
 - Would you list the total number of residential and non residential programs you have in each city and town?
 -

Background Information was discussed.

#1 The issue of asking for specific addresses was raised

- Wes brought up the notion that we should not be asking this information and that many organizations would not want to give it for safety reasons.
- Cynthia suggested that we make a chart.
- Would listing the addresses be beneficial?
- Would listing a program running at a specific address be beneficial?
- Wes said there are many agencies that do not want to provide this information.
- Laurie said that not only did we already discuss this at past meetings, the group specifically asked the background group to list all the addresses and assign every program that is occurring at those addresses.

- Cynthia suggested that we make a chart.
- Couldn't we just have them write confidential for any address there was a concern about?
- Dawn agreed we said that but that she didn't know what Wes just said about the other organizations.
- Why don't we list the programs separately? Make them uncorrelated.
- Cynthia suggested that we make a chart.
- The definition and interpretation of units ensued. Should this based on individual living spaces, apartments or square footage? Should we know how many people in each building? Should we ask how many people are living in each building if it is a residence? Should we ask how many people are being served in each building? The group concluded that Laurie should bring in a clear definition of unit for the group to discuss.
- Cynthia suggested that we make a chart and it will be much easier.

Bob asked who wants Cynthia to make a chart?

All agreed. Yea! So moved!

Number 2 about programs was discussed briefly.

Keeping them totally separate and uncorrelated from addresses was agreed.

Wes asked how can we determine the different impacts for the taxed and non taxed properties if we do not know the programs associated with them?

The group decided to continue at the next meeting.

Wes mentioned that he had a page of typed notes from his meeting with Dr. Martes that he wanted to hand out.

Motion to adjourn

7 in favor 1 opposed 0 abstain

Laurie Lee

Clerk