



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance: April Fournier, Chair (At-large), & Victoria Pelletier (District 2), Anna Trevorrow (District 1).

City Staff:

Kristen Dow, Director of HHS; Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Social Services; Heath Gorham, Interim Police Chief; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief;

Invited Guests: Rebecca Nisetich, Director of Honors Program at the University of Southern Maine; Vaishali Mamgain, Director of the Bertha Crosley Ball Center for Compassion at the University of Southern Maine.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.

Announcements and Approval of Minutes

- The Committee is comprised the Chair, Councilor Fournier (At-Large), Councilor Pelletier (District 2), and Councilor Trevorrow (District 1); it is the first all-woman Council committee.
- Councilor Trevorrow moved to approve the minutes and Councilor Pelletier seconded and the motion passed 3 – 0.
- HHS and Public Safety are central to Council goals.
 - It is important to be informed by city staff, however the framework of this committee will be action oriented.

2023 Goal-Setting

Welcome and Gratitude

- The goal is to lay the groundwork of gratitude, past accomplishments and future work.
- Last year had intense challenging news on the need for housing throughout the year.
- Courage on the Council inspires the ability to speak to one's values.

Understanding Values and Social Change Ecosystem Roles & Archetypes

- Council common goals that prioritizes racial, social, and justice equity
 - Housing/homelessness
 - Climate
 - Sustainability
- Goals fall into three buckets
 - Health
 - Human Services
 - Public Safety
- We have legislative priorities through this HHS&PS lens.
- Councilor Fournier's Goals
 - Public Health
 - Chapter 35, a holistic review of cannabis regulations.
 - Roe Vs. Wade overturned by the Dobbs decision. How as a municipality do we protect our community? How do we support state policy on abortion?
 - Safe Injection Sites
 - Human Services
 - March: Homeless Services Center opens in Riverside.
 - How can hit committee help a successful implementation.
 - Looking at success of programs implemented throughout the city
 - Elena's way
 - Camping policy
 - Public Safety
 - Camping
 - Dispatch Center
 - Collaborative efforts and not reinventing the wheel if we already have information.
 - Community Health Improvement Plan
- Councilor Pelletier
 - Chapter 35 review as a whole.
 - Abortion: a discussion around resolutions we can make on urging constitutionally protecting it in Maine.

- Agrees with the Chair's goals.
- Councilor Trevorrow
 - Serves on the advisory board for Elena's Way.
 - Document formulating Elena's Way's advisory committee is similar to the HSC's.
 - Decriminalize Maine: decriminalize the possession, adult use and cultivation of all plant and fungal medicines (entheogens).
 - Safe injection sites. It is worth looking at these programs.

Creating a Consensual Process that Honors Interconnectedness

- Thinking of a timeline and partners needed to work on the issue.
 - Homeless services center
 - Safe injection sites
 - Chapter 35 Cannabis review
 - Abortion Access
 - Resources to help with the Dispatch Services Center
- Gauging program efficacy and remain action oriented.
- Councilor Fournier organized by quarter.
 - In the 1st quarter:
 - HSC implementation
 - Medical and dental providers
 - Vocational providers
 - Mental Health providers
 - Transportation, engaging Metro
 - Neighbors in D5 for a community building sense.
 - Who they can contact?
 - Abortion Resolution
 - Corporation Counsel
 - Take up and vote out of committee in February and then at the full Council.
 - August isn't a great time to start things so are there items that should star in July or wait for September?
- Councilor Trevorrow said some of these are more operational in nature vs policy and could have two tracks working at the same time.
 - An example of an operational item would be the HSC and resources for dispatch, both of which would be informed by the budget process.
- Councilor Pelletier agrees; seeing it planned out is helpful.

- The HSC has a management plan that was worked on for the planning board but could be presented to and tweaked by this committee.
- Not reinventing the wheel and closing the loop, building on the foundational work already completed.

Past Accomplishments

- Advocacy around resettlement.
- Advocacy around GA reform.
- Review of Police department best practices.
- Needle Exchange Program and Harm Reduction Review.
- Shelter licensing.
- Not reinventing the wheel and using prior work to deepen the work.
 - HSC management plan.
 - Past research on Safe Consumption Sites.

Future Goals

- 1
 - HSC implementation
 - Medical providers
 - Mental Health providers
 - Transportation, engaging Metro
 - Neighbors in D5 for a community building sense.
 - Abortion Resolution
 - Corporation Counsel
 - Take up and vote in February. Out of committee and at the full Council.
 - Looking at pregnancy crisis centers; An ordinance in MA bans the centers. They pose as healthcare centers where abortion care is available and are not that and can be harmful.
- 2
 - Camping Policy
 - Public Health
 - Public Safety
 - In context of HSC running.
 - Chapter 35
 - Dispatch Center
 - Anything this committee needs to do to be helpful with the finance committee.

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 - Chapter 35 Cannabis review
 - Safe Injection Sites in September or in August if needed.
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 - Program health and efficacy.
 - We spent ARPA money to open programs; are they doing what we hoped they would.
 - What new money exists to replicate successful programs.
 - Legislative committee
 - Are there things from this committee we would like to carry forward.
 - Review
 - Able to still move through the work as things come up.
- Councilor Fournier did a great job running this meeting!
- Racial, Social, Equity Lens
 - Always uses a lens that prioritizes racial, social, and equity lenses for Council goals
 - One Committee goal:
 - Abortion
 - There will be disproportionate access in many states that will impact under resourced groups, racial and ethnic minorities.
 - It is so protected here, we need to leverage that to get full protections.
 - It will have disproportionate impact on anyone who can give birth.
 - Any resolution must be translated into the 7 major languages spoken in Portland.
 - The partners we will need are mostly people of color who speak languages other than English.
 - The overturning of Roe vs Wade was an act of violence against poor and minority women.
 - Pregnancy Crisis Centers prey on vulnerable individuals so any step at banning these centers works through this lens.
 - Once a resolution is passed, have it put into a format that is digestible for the average reader and translate that.
 - The infographics increased equity through making the information accessible.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:09 PM.