

Salt Lake County Council of Governments

05/21/2020

12:00 PM

WebEx

Meeting called by: Chair, Mayor Dawn Ramsey **Type of meeting:** Quarterly Meeting

Facilitator: Erika Fihaki

Attendees: Dawn Ramsey, Bart Barker, Ron Bigelow, Lorin Simpson, Helen Peters, Mike Gallegos, Doug Hill, MLarsen, Clint Smith, Carlton Christensen, WR3744, Blair Camp, Carol Gonot, Sam Klemm, Jennifer Ball, Lynn Pace, Victoria Ashby, Jordan Carroll, KW Cushing, Harris Sondak, Cherie Wood, Ted Knowlton, Ryan Perry, M Fazio, Michael Jensen, Andrea Packer, CS Wanick, S Bishop, Janice Kimball, Mike Peterson, Jared Stewart, Drew Quinn, Lisa Hartman, Nichol Bourdeaux, Laniece, Derk Timothy, Dina Blaes, A Johnston, Jan Lopez, G Whatcott, Karen Lang, Ann Granato, Randy Wightman, Tasha, Michael Jensen, Tim Tingey, S bishop, Zach Jacob, Joe Smolka, Will Kocher (Voting members – mayor camp, mayor wood, cm smith, sondack, bigelow, (ryan perry), peterson, mayor ramsey, cm Jensen, Timothy)

Minutes

Agenda item: Welcome & Approval of Minutes **Presenter:** Dawn Ramsey

Discussion:

Mayor Ramsey welcomed the group and opened the meeting. There was not a quorum to vote on the minutes. Mayor Ramsey asked for a motion to move approval of the minutes to the end of the meeting. Mayor Peterson made a motion to move approval of minutes to the end of the agenda. Council Member Michael Jensen seconded the motion. Unanimous Vote. Motion passed.

Agenda item: Economic Recovery Effort & Tools **Presenter:** Dina Blaes & Blake Thomas – Salt Lake County

Discussion:

Dina Blaes gave a presentation of what the Economic Impact Working Group has been doing since launch on March 23rd. Mayor Sondak asked about loss of sales tax. He is concerned that his town will not be able to operate without the revenue from the ski resorts. Dina responded that congress did not make revenue replacement eligible for CARES Act Spending. Our goal is to stabilize revenue generating elements.

Agenda item: Potential Long-Term Impacts on Transportation & Community Development from Covid-19 **Presenter:** Andrew Gruber – Wasatch Front Regional Council

Discussion:

Mike G presented our draft action plan to the committee members. He advised them that this is just a draft and we can continue revising it throughout this process. There was a discussion about the funding being provided for short term higher education. This funding is going to community colleges and technical colleges.

- Mike A commented that JTPA is needed now more than ever to fill trade positions.
- Mike A asked if it would be possible to go out and obtain match dollars for this education. Mike G suggested that we could get those match dollars from employers who are having a difficult time filling their vacant positions.
- Mike A suggested that we create a landlord education & outreach as part of our Action Plan. Mike G responded that we need to approach landlords differently than we have in the past. We need to help mediate between landlords and tenants. Mike A replied that landlords loose money when they loose tenants. So it would behoove all of us to keep tenants in their housing.
- Jeannette agreed. She would like to see a Landlord Education piece. She would like the county to create grants for community organizations to do landlord education.

- Lourdes commented that she would like to see “Housing Communities” which provide additional community benefits, such as child programs, parenting education, household involvement in the property/community upkeep, etc. Mike A agreed with this, he believes it would help disrupt intergenerational poverty.
- Mike A would like to see the fees to attend a rec center removed so that households of color could more easily utilize those resources. He’s recommended this to the mayor.
- Lourdes asked what the goal of this committee is. She would like to see something measurable. She also asked who would take ownership of the goals and track the progress toward them. Mike G responded that the goal is to create policy recommendations for the Mayor. These recommendations would allow us to establish a baseline and develop metrics to track our progress.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Complete Draft Action Plan	Mike Gallegos	COMPLETED

Agenda item: Legislative Update – State/Federal/Covid-19 **Presenter:** Cameron Diehl & Victoria Ashby – Utah League of Cities and Towns

Discussion:

Mike G presented a document which discusses housing cost burden – the measurement of how much of a household’s income is used for housing. Many households are exceeding 40% to 50% of their income for housing which takes away from their other needs such as transportation, food and medical. The housing cost in Utah has been rising steadily since 2012 yet wages have not kept up with the increase of housing costs. Typically we are in a deficit on affordable housing supply. Currently most of the Affordable Housing being created is for households earning between 30 – 50% AMI. The housing for household’s earnings in the higher AMI brackets is attributed to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) which mandates that agencies using this subsidy must provide housing for households whose earnings are less than 60% AMI. Housing which serves those lower income households is more deeply subsidized and often includes supportive services. LIHTC are a great opportunity for developers as it generally provides up to 70% of the equity for the development project.

- Lourdes commented that often there is only one income in a family, which increases the housing burden. Mike G clarified that they are referring to Household Income. He further clarified that if multiple households are living together, they wouldn’t count the second household’s income because their end goal would be to obtain their own housing.

Mike G presented a second document which was an analysis of At-Risk Renters. This analysis was completed as part of the review of which households might need rental assistance as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. At this time HCD created an emergency fund to assist households with rent once the moratorium on rent expired. This would enable us to assist with rental arrears. 3 to 4 months of rent would be about eight to nine million dollars. Our office will be funding the case management aspect of rental assistance.

- Kristina asked how does a household become eligible for rental assistance? Mike G explained that they would have needed to lose their job or income due to Covid-19. Currently these households are being referred to Utah Community Action. We hope to help them increase their capacity.
- Kristina was concerned that only one agency is providing this resource. She is concerned that households who are undocumented or don’t speak English may not be able to utilize this resource. Mike G clarified that Housing Connect is also providing this resource. He further explained that HCD is looking to improve the capacity of Utah Community Action Program and Housing Connect to include translation services available to case managers. We will also be looking increasing capacity for agencies who work with special populations such as refugees to increase their capacity as well.
- Jeanette commented that one of the barriers Utah Community Action Program is experiencing barriers with landlords not completing the paperwork necessary for rental assistance. Mike G agreed that is a barrier as some landlords don’t want to comply with some of the requirements of funding.

Mike G presented a final document which is an overview of Utah’s Economic Forecast. Utah’s economy is recovering well, however the hospitality and service industry seems to be struggling still. Unemployment has declined. Construction has slowed. Sales tax has increased slightly.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Email Hard Copies of the 3 documents reviewed	Erika Fihaki	COMPLETED

Agenda item: UTA Overview of Ridership, Current Service Levels & Plan for Service Restoration **Presenter:** Carlton Christensen & Carol Gonot – Utah Transit Authority

Discussion: In our next meeting we will be designating a Chair to work with Mike on developing the action plan and continue working with the committee to create policy recommendations.

Mike A commented that he would like to have Utah Community Action Program, Housing Connect and NeighborWorks present in a future meeting to advise the committee of the services they provide.

Kristina would like to involve some consumers in this process, to see what is or is not working for them. Mike G said he would love to have a consumer as part of the committee so he asked the committee members to send him a name and contact information for anyone they may know who might be interested in joining the committee.

Mike G advised the committee that Erika will be sending out Meeting Notes and the recording of the meeting to the committee members as well as the documents presented today.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Email Meeting Notes to Committee	Erika Fihaki	COMPLETED
✓ Email Meeting Recording to Committee	Erika Fihaki	COMPLETED
✓ Send Name & Contact info to Mike for consumer who may want to join committee.	Committee Members	08/14/2020

Agenda item: Update on Bangerter Highway – 3 Interchanges (6200 S, 10400 S & 12600 S) **Presenter:** Carmen Swanick – Utah Department of Transportation, Region 2

Discussion:

In our last meeting it was discussed that we need to have sufficient outreach materials for community members to become informed about services available. We also discussed the need for translation services for clients of Salt Lake County and our partner agencies. Salt Lake County has a list of translation services available to each of their offices. HCD staff will be working on creating a directory of our partner agencies and the services they provide. This directory will be available in multiple languages and will be posted on our website.