

SECURING AN OPERATOR FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DAY RESOURCE CENTER

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The County Board has been working to establish a comprehensive day resource center since it was identified in the July, 2012 report of Madison Area Urban Ministry as a key component to addressing gaps in Dane County's homeless services system. A comprehensive day resource center has three main elements - it serves as a warming center for large numbers of people in extreme weather, it helps to serve basic needs of people without homes (showers, lockers, laundry, electricity to charge phones and devices, etc.) and it provides resources to help people secure and maintain housing.

The County, in consultation with its funding partners the City of Madison and the United Way, decided to reject the only response to the request for proposals issued for operations of a new comprehensive day resource center at 1326 E. Washington Ave. in the City of Madison. The respondent's proposal came in at \$450,000, which is \$120,000 more than what was set forth as available funding in the RFP. Homeless services advocates, providers, including potential RFP respondents, and comprehensive day resource center neighbors have stated a concern with insufficient funding committed to the project. Sufficient funding is key to attracting quality RFP responses. The comprehensive day resource center recommendations on which the recent RFP was based are about three (3) years old and a review of them is necessary. A good operator is integral to the success of the day resource center and building positive relationships with the day resource center neighbors. Public input into the operations model, funding levels, and negotiated operations contract is valuable to building trust with stakeholders and improving the development plans. Securing an operator will be critical to the planning and development of the comprehensive day resource center project and securing the requisite conditional use permit from the City of Madison.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Department of Human Services, or one of its funding partners, will convene at least two publicly noticed meetings of the funders and stakeholders, to evaluate the prior operations RFP, appropriate funding levels, other available funding sources, neighborhood concerns, and the operations model for a comprehensive day resource center as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the operations model and funding recommendations gained from those meetings shall stay true to the vision for a comprehensive day resource center providing an array of services and amenities to make it easiest on homeless persons to get what they need, to relocate currently scattered programs at the comprehensive day resource center, ending inefficient interim programs and maximizing resources for services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the operations recommendations shall include space for an adequate kitchen so hot meals can be served on site by providers or volunteers in accordance with food safety requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the operations model recommendations shall be based on meeting the needs of comprehensive day resource center program participants and not be restrained by existing capital funding allocations and if additional capital funding is required (for example, to add additional space for personal storage) that shall be included in the recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City-County Homeless Issues Committee will be invited to fully participate in these meetings.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County, as property owner of the facility and leader on the comprehensive day resource center, will either negotiate with the prior respondent based on the outcomes of the meetings or re-issue a revised RFP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract for operations of the comprehensive day resource center shall be referred to the City-County Homeless Issues Committee for its recommendation and require County Board approval.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County will select an operator prior to submitting a conditional use permit application for the day resource center with the City of Madison.