

Government Operations Committee
Wednesday April 22, 2015 at 5:15 pm
City Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF)— \$40,000 Healthy Communities Grant

Please see attached Council Action page and Council Resolve

2. Consideration of Accepting Recommendations from the Substance Abuse Task Force

This item is returning from a discussion at the April 6th committee meeting. Please see the attached information from City Manager Conlow.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: April 27, 2015

Item/Subject: Resolve, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate funding in the amount of \$40,000 from the Maine Health Access Foundation.

Responsible Department: Health and Community Services

Commentary:

Having successfully completed the first pre-planning phase, the Public Health and Community Services Department received notice of funding for the second planning phase of the Maine Health Access Foundation *Achieving Better Health in Communities: Healthy Community Grants Program*. The pre-planning phase brought together a diverse group representing public and private organizations across multiple industries and sectors to work collectively to identify 1-2 critical health issues that warrant attention in the Healthy Maine Partnership service area including Bangor, Brewer, Clifton, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Levant, Newburgh, Orono, Orrington, and Veazie.

The critical issue selected for the second planning phase is Substance Abuse. This issue was chosen because of its documented impact on health. Momentum exists to make substantive positive changes to address the substance abuse-related needs of our community. There is demonstrated commitment from influential stakeholder leadership and area organizations. Strategies are in place for meaningfully engaging those with lived experiences and maintaining communication and inclusivity.

The term of the grant is May 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: Resolve

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for

- Passage
- First Reading
- Referral

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CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Resolve, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate funding in the amount of \$40,000 from the Maine Health Access Foundation.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The City Manager is Authorized to Accept and Appropriate funding in the amount of \$40,000 from the Maine Health Access Foundation, for the second planning phase dealing with Substance Abuse for the period of May 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016

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On behalf of the Bangor City Council and the Citizens of Bangor I am writing this to share with you the work that Bangor has been doing around the issue of substance abuse. As you know, substance abuse and addiction, particularly to prescription and nonprescription opiate drugs, is of great concern to the community and the Bangor City Council. From substance abuse prevention to treatment and recovery, the community is developing a vision for a healthier eastern Maine.

This past spring, the City engaged in an unprecedented new collaborative with health care and service organizations known as the Community Health Leadership Board (CHLB). The CHLB came together to address pressing health concerns in our community. The CHLB is comprised of chief executive officers and other leaders from Eastern Maine Medical Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Penobscot Community Health Care, Acadia Hospital, Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, Community Health and Counseling Services, Penquis, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, and the City of Bangor. The issue this group decided to address was the issue of substance abuse in the community.

To study the issues, this summer, the City of Bangor and the CHLB launched the Bangor's Community Working Group on Substance Abuse (report attached). This community working group brought together a broad cross section of residents, medical professionals, public health professionals, addiction specialists, public safety representatives, and business owners to participate in educational sessions on issues affecting substance abuse and develop a set of recommendations for the community to act upon. The working group spent a significant amount of time hearing from subject experts and studying the impact of addiction on the Bangor Community. Issues that were covered included the impact that childhood trauma may have in developing substance abuse problems; the science behind how a brain changes when addicted; current treatment practices; the lack of local recovery resources; the law enforcement and legal perspectives on the involvement of drugs in crime; how drug offenses are prosecuted; and how the addiction issues impact the livability of the community. The recommendations represented steps the group believed will help get Bangor to a better place in understanding and treating addiction in our community.

The CHLB selected five of the Community Working Group's recommendations to address immediately and have begun to form working groups around the following issues:

- Launch a public awareness campaign that educates and decreases the stigma of addiction, treatment and recovery.
- Develop a community-wide opioid prescribing protocol and provide best practices for the dispensing of MAT.
- Provide community based social detox services.
- Develop a regional model for continuum of care that provides more rural addiction treatment services.
- Develop a regional asset map of prevention, treatment and recovery services.

The report included several other recommendations which have been picked up by other groups and individuals. Specifically, the City has submitted legislation on two issues of interest including incentivizing treatment opportunities in rural communities and funding to reinstate drug court in Bangor.

LD 20 calls for the reinstatement of drug court in Bangor, which was supported by the substance abuse working group based on the following reasons: the success of drug court in Ellsworth and the lack of available jail space in Penobscot County and the State of Maine has led the city to conclude that other alternatives to adjudicate and treat drug addicted individuals may provide greater relief to the criminal justice system. In addition to LD 20, the City viewed opportunity for funding through the Governor's budget proposal to increase enforcement and judges.

LD 524 is legislation in support of a pilot project to expand access to treatment services in rural communities. The hope is that expanding access to treatment will reduce costs to the state through lower transportation costs, provide greater accessibility to individuals in their own community thereby reducing some of the stress associated with treatment and increasing the likelihood of success.

Overall, the Bangor has invested a significant amount of time and resources into studying the issues of drug addiction and its effects on our community. The intended outcomes is to allow the City, community partners and the CHLB to invest in a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, treatment and recovery believing this approach to be the most successful way to improve outcomes of this important community issue. We look forward to working with all our partners, including the State of Maine.

Respectfully,

DRAFT