


Worksession

MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2018

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY19 Operating Budget; Department of Health and Human Services – Follow-up**

PURPOSE: Consider follow-up information from previous worksessions

Attendees for this session:

Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Dr. John Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
Amanda Harris, Chief, Special Needs Housing/Services to End and Prevent Homelessness
Josh Watters, Office of Management and Budget
Erika Finn-Lopez, Office of Management and Budget

1. Supplement to support Adult Medical Daycare at new County minimum wage \$813,759 and 0.0FTE

On April 30, the HHS Committee considered the Executive's recommendation to provide \$813,759 to provide payments to eligible Adult Medical Daycare providers to assist them in meeting the County's minimum wage requirements. DHHS told the Committee that a proposal was provided to the Executive that clearly described how the reimbursements from Medicaid are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the County's minimum wage and the organizations do not have the ability to raise fees or other resources to cover the cost. Council staff explained its concern about the County taking on this new funding responsibility which will grow as the minimum wage increases and as the number of adults using the service grows. Council staff recommended against the funding.

The Committee was informed in an e-mail from a representative from the Adult Medical Daycare providers that a payment of \$651,012 in FY19 is sufficient rather than the \$813,759 recommended in the budget. The Committee requested follow-up with DHHS to confirm whether the lower amount is appropriate.

The Department will inform the Committee about whether the \$651,012 can be an appropriate payment for FY19. The Committee will need to make a recommendation to fund the proposed payment, not fund the payment, or to agree to a portion of the payment (such as 50%) and put the remainder on the Reconciliation List. This last option would also show as a reduction and restoration on the Reconciliation List.

If the Council approves funding for this purpose, Council staff recommends the following budget provision:

This resolution appropriates \$XXXXXXXXXX to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a payment to organizations providing adult medical daycare services that accept Medicaid funding. In order to receive this payment, an organization must demonstrate to the Department it is licensed and in good standing with the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Healthcare Quality. The organization must provide any documentation requested by the Department to determine the use of the program by Medicaid funded County residents. The provider must be in compliance with the Montgomery County Minimum Wage law. Section G of this resolution includes entities eligible to receive this non-competitive payment.

2. Senior Transportation Study

The HHS Committee discussed the proposed reduction of \$14,000 to the DHHS budget and reductions in the Recreation Department budget for senior transportation.

The Committee asked DHHS for their estimate on the resources needed to conduct a multi-departmental survey regarding the transportation needs of seniors.

3. Home Health Care Aides for Healthcare for the Homeless

The Montgomery Cares Advisory Board has requested \$50,000 to fund home health aide services for formerly homeless people who will be in danger of losing their housing because they need assistance in some daily activities. As the homeless population ages (like the regular population) there is a need for this assistance. In its prioritization, the MCAB identified this as a Level 3 priority. Council staff recommended \$20,000 be placed on the Reconciliation List. The Committee asked DHHS to give further consideration and feedback on this item, advise the Committee whether Healthcare for the Homeless can access the current Home Health Aide contract in Aging and Disability Services, and comment on whether the \$20,000 recommended by Council staff would be an appropriate amount.

4. Outcome requirements for WorkSource Montgomery for the East County Opportunity Zone

The Committee requested this information after reviewing the update on the East County Opportunity Zone that said WorkSource had 69 clients and that three have started employment.

5. Security Staff and Progress Place

The Committee requested information on the hours and type of personnel (contract, County Security, Police) that provide security at Progress Place. Information was also requested regarding how calls for security are communicated to the Police Department.

6. Project Search

The Committee asked for information on how and how much Project Search participants are paid. This issue came up as the Committee recommended approval of funds for paying Public Service Interns the County minimum wage.