

**Portland Children's Levy
Allocation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2015 3:00 p.m.
Location: Portland City Council Chambers**

*The full record of the meeting may be viewed on the Portland Children's Investment Fund website:
www.portlandchildrenslevy.org.*

Attending: Mitch Hornecker, Deborah Kafoury, Dan Saltzman (Chair), Serena Stoudamire-Wesley, Julie S. Young

Welcome/introduction of Allocation Committee and Children's Levy staff

Approval of minutes from April 28 meeting

Young: So moved

Stoudamire-Wesley: Second

Vote: All in favor.

Public Comment – none

Allocating Additional Revenues

Saltzman: We recently learned that we have an additional \$8.1 million to allocate. At our recent meeting, we allocated \$6.2 million. We voted to fund additional early head start and Oregon prekindergarten classrooms. We also voted to fund quality childcare subsidies. We voted to fund quality improvement, professional development and technical assistance for our grantees. We also decided to fund system partners and give a COLA to current grantees.

Today, we will decide how to allocate the remaining \$1.9 million. We chose not to conduct a new RFI and asked staff to provide recommendations for funding unfunded applications from the 2014 RFI and to suggest additions to funding of previously funded programs.

McElroy: 2 meetings ago Committee asked staff to provide information on current grantees and unfunded applicants to assist them in allocating the remaining revenues. Staff only reviewed applications that received the minimum points to be considered for funding. Staff's recommendations, along with narrative explanation, were sent via email last week to all 2014 applicants that were considered for funding.

These are the column headings on spreadsheet of staff recommendations:

- Application score
- Cultural specificity
- Predominantly serving East Portland (more than 50% of participants live/attend school east of 82nd Ave)
- Percentage of request awarded and how that compares to the average percentage awarded across all requests that received funding (average % awarded across all grantees was 70% of request)
- Level of PCL funding in 2010/11 (year before substantial cuts were made due to declining Levy revenues) compared to 2014/15 funding level
- Level of PCL funding in 2013/14 (last year of previous levy) compared to 2014/15 funding level
- number of Allocation Committee members that indicated on individual funding slates his/her interest in funding the applicant at a higher level, or to fund an unfunded application
- Staff recommended funding level
- Whether program is on track to meet service goals at mid-year
- Whether program is new and/or has start-up challenges
- Percentage of grant spent at end of third quarter
- Additional variables that may be unique to a particular grant/applicant (e.g. specific components funded; fit with PCL strategy)

Staff reviewed all existing grants, and all applications that met minimum score requirements to develop funding recommendations.

Specifically, staff reviewed data Allocation Committee requested and weighed them to arrive at recommendations. Other factors could be weighed differently for other results or could look at factors that AC/staff didn't think to consider.

Supporting factors include:

- Committee members wanted to fund at a higher level, or fund something that was not funded
- Current funding level below 10/11 or 13/14 funding level
- Scored 85 or higher
- Culturally specific services
- Predominantly served east Portland
- Received less than 70% of requested funding
- Staff recommended funding and/or recommended a higher funding level than was awarded

Mitigating factors include:

- Scored less than 85
- Received more than 70% of request, or more than 70% of what was requested for a particular strategy if the application included a request for funding multiple strategies
- Current funding level above 10/11 and/or 13/14 funding level
- Committee voted only to fund certain components of application and those components are currently funded as proposed
- Performance concerns at mid-year, particularly for start-up programs
- Less than 70% of current grant funds spent at end of Q3
- New program and thus no performance data available until end of fiscal year
- Some components proposed did not meet requirements of strategy or had significant design issues raised by reviewers and/or staff
- Historical performance concerns

These factors informed staff recommendations.

In the child abuse prevention/intervention program area, staff also considered the fact that PCL did not meet its goal to allocate at least 30% of available resources to culturally specific services, and the related fact of overrepresentation of African-Americans and Native Americans in the foster system.

Final point, recommendations do not significantly alter the allocation goals between program areas as set by AC before last RFI—variance is 1% -2%.

Saltzman: Did you not propose additional early childhood requests because of recent decisions.

McElroy: Early childhood and mentoring had very few supporting factors and more mitigating factors. It is a coincidence that these programs were not supported for increases or new funding.

Public Testimony on Additional Funding

Dennis Morrow from **Janus Youth Programs** speaking in support of the Village Gardens program which has been recommended for funding. Thank you for reconsideration of this program on behalf of the families who will be served by the program. Cited statistics of demographics of the population served by the program. The program meets all Levy specifications. This is part of a community development program to help eliminate hunger. Numbers of children and parents served are actually greater than the numbers shown. I encourage you to go back to the original staff recommendation of funding level.

Amber Baker, Program Director of **Village Gardens**. Thank you for considering funding our program. Our youth led component of this project. This is an opportunity to transform food acquisition for households with youth leadership. We would like you to consider fully funding all aspects of the project.

Anita Vinson with **Salvation Army Parent Child Involvement Project West Women and Children's Shelter**. We would like to be able to add the home visiting component to our program. It is a crucial component. 60-75% of our families are Native American or African American. Changing family dynamic of domestic violence requires long term commitment. We have worked with some families for 5 years.

Jade Tan, a parent, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Health and Service Center** and **Yu Miao Immersion Preschool**. I urge the PCL to grant funds to support expansion of this program. AHSC must meet the rising demand of preparing Asian speaking children for school. Only AHSC would serve primarily Asian children. The Levy has not served Asians as it has other groups. Yu Miao means nurturing

Dale Johannes, parent of two kids who attend **Yu Miao Immersion Preschool**. Our children have thrived at this program. The school is cultural immersion in Chinese Culture. I am fortunate enough to be able to afford this program. There are many children whose families cannot afford this program.

Chan Johannes, parent of two children in **Yu Miao Immersion Preschool**. I am thinking of what the children deserve. My mother emigrated here from Thailand. We are 100% Chinese, but I do not speak Chinese. We know the importance of language and education achievement. I am thankful that I can afford this program. I hope you consider funding this program.

Salah Ansary with **Lutheran Community Services** advocating for our Family Resiliency Program. I advocate for programs which will support newly arrived immigrants. Our 2014 proposal in child abuse prevention was in the top 7 of scores with a 90. We proposed serving 100% East Portland and culturally specific programming. Refugees are the most underserved population in child abuse prevention. I strongly urge you support this program.

Stephanie Green with **Lutheran Community Services**. Refugee families are very vulnerable. Please consider funding this program.

Sean Suib from **New Avenues for Youth**. I thank you for all your work. Avenues to College program is the only wraparound program for foster youth. I ask the Committee to consider increasing our funding by \$65,000 per year. With these funds we can increase our staffing and help us offer better housing support.

Rick Nitti from **Neighborhood House**. Our program is for 18 preschool spots in NW 14th near Raleigh. We propose these spots because we see a need there. We met with the landlord and know that we can stay in that location if PPS is not the contractor. We expect to be able to fill the spots we requested. This is an area that the City is investing in affordable housing. The Ramona is affordable housing and there are others in the area. The need is there. We recommend you fund this program.

Kelly George to talk about the **Asian Health and Service Center Yu Miao Preschool**. Their funding request was to offer free and reduced tuition to low income native Chinese families. I have two children who have been through the program. No Children's Levy programs support Chinese children specifically. 7.1% of Portland's population is Asian. All of our underserved communities need support to close the achievement gap. There is a belief that Asians are a model minority. I had a personal experience with Portland Public Schools denying us support services for our daughter. After a second assessment, she did receive services. The model minority stereotype hurts our families and children.

Gerald Deloney with **Self Enhancement, Inc.** thank the staff for their recommendation. I urge you to restore dollars to our after school program and for funding our child abuse prevention program. It is important to support community based organizations to build capacity and solve our own problems. Thank you.

Allison Dunfee with **Pathfinders of Oregon** Center for Family Success. I support the recommendation of an increase for our program. This funding will allow us to serve families on our wait list. Many of these families are gang affected. Thank you for considering us.

Julie Mancini from **College Possible**. We are working with students in East County at Parkrose, Sam Barlow, David Douglas and Reynolds. We are working with high school juniors and seniors and college students. There are programs in place to help children succeed in high school. We help students to be successful beyond high school. We have seen an increase in SAT scores and have a high percentage of students accepted to college. This is a new program. We would like to come into more Portland Public schools.

Meg Wills with Parent Child Involvement Project with **Impact NW**. Thanks to the staff for recommending restoring funding to this program. I urge you to restore these funds. This program serves domestic violence survivors and their children. It is community based program using a proven model.

Heidi Vanieri with **Saturday Academy**. Thank you for our current funding. We provide services to 12 schools in Portland. With the additional funding, we will be able to provide long term services in East County schools.

Eloise Curler from **Saturday Academy**. Our classes have experts teaching in depth classes, including cyber programming. We see this funding as a way to get more at risk youth into our programs for the long term.

Sharon Hofer, parent of child at **Asian Health and Service Center** at **Yu Miao Preschool**. Those of us speaking today are able to afford this program. There are families who do not have access to these services. Programs through this provider are strong. I support funding this proposal.

Humberto Marquez from **IRCO INSPIRE** Program. It is an in school program for immigrant youth. This program has demonstrated positive outcomes for the life of the levy. It scored highly in the recent RFI. It meets many of the standards of the levy. This program supports academic success for at risk youth. We are seeking an increase in funding, as we only received 58% of requested funds. It is difficult to find other programs that support our youth.

My name is **Allison Bautista**, an eighth grader at Jason Lee. I participate in the **IRCO INSPIRE** program. This program has helped me in math and in learning about my culture. I hope I can have INSPIRE in high school.

My name is **Solomon Hashie**, 7th grader at Ron Russell middle school. I participate in the **IRCO INSPIRE** program. I like the program. I hope it is still going on next year so I can be ready for high school.

Joe McFerrin from **Portland OIC**. Thank you for considering us for funding of our child abuse prevention and intervention services for African American families. POIC currently serves 102 African American youth who have children ages 0 to 5. The families we serve live below the poverty line and are susceptible to abuse and neglect. We have been talking with Tony Hopson at SEI about coordinating our programs in a new way. We are committed to creating an African American Child Abuse Committee to monitor our progress and help us work together. This is a great opportunity for PCL to help leverage resources.

Jonathan Blasher with **Playworks**. Thank you for allocating funding for our programs. It has been very effective and we are on budget and on track for performance indicators. We appreciate the COLA's already approved. We would like a minimum of an additional \$20,000 per year for our Junior Coach Leadership Program. We were funded at less than our request, but had to reduce our services from 10 to 9 schools. We would like to expand to

20 schools next year. We have already raised matching funds. \$6,350 per year allow us to move into new schools.

Mike Balter of **Boys & Girls Aid**. Thanks to the staff for recommending additional funding for the permanency program. This will increase the position from 0.5 FTE to one full time position.

Tabriz Zach from **IRCO**. We work with youth through SUN and serve about 3,000 families per year. I ask you to support our Hunger Relief program. We were one of the highest ranked programs, scoring 96, but were not funded. We serve East of 82nd, students of color and families below the poverty level. This program is culturally specific as well. This proposal will increase emergency food stores and access to food for up to 16,000 people over 4 years.

Lee Cha from **IRCO**. I am grateful for the recommendation of funding for IRCO. Our hunger relief proposal was ranked number 1, but was not funded. To fund this program would enhance capacity. We will be able to serve a needy and diverse population.

Saltzman: We have to stop testimony now. We will now deliberate on the requests for funding. We all submitted our recommendations for funding to the staff yesterday. We will review these recommendations in the order of most agreement.

Mitch Hornecker who serves on their board abstained from any recommendations for New Avenues for Youth. I abstained from any recommendations for Impact Northwest. Serena abstained from SEI.

The Allocation Committee approved the following grants for funding beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017:

Program Area	Grantee Program	Grant Amount
HR	Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization – new grant	\$ 225,000
HR	Metropolitan Family Service – new grant	\$ 200,000
HR	Janus Youth Programs – new grant	\$ 166,667
CAPI	Pathfinders Center for Family Success – increase amount	\$ 50,000
CAPI	Salvation Army West Women's Shelter, PChIP – increase	\$ 115,000
FC	Boys & Girls Aid, Permanency – increase amount	\$ 100,000
AS: E	Native American Youth & Family Ctr. – increase	\$ 60,000
AS: A	Self Enhancement, Inc. - increase	\$ 150,000
CAPI	Lifeworks Northwest, FCA - increase	\$ 40,000
CAPI	Portland OIC, Young Parent	\$ 233,000
CAPI	SEI, Intensive Parenting Svcs	\$ 220,000
AS: E	Impact NW, AKA Science - increase	\$ 50,000
CAPI	Impact NW, Parent Child Involvement – new grant	\$ 176,000
FC	New Avenues for Youth – Avenues to College - increase	\$ 50,000
AS E	Impact NW - Urban Opportunities - increase	\$ 50,000

Increases are for already funded grants; these amounts raise existing grant amounts.

All votes were unanimous. Saltzman abstained from all Impact NW votes. Hornecker abstained from New Avenues for Youth vote.

Kafoury: At our last meeting, we allocated \$1 million for technical assistance and training for grantees. There are a lot of programs that could use funding. I propose that we reduce the amount set aside for technical assistance from \$1 million to \$480,000. I would like to add \$520,000 to Yu Miao Preschool.

I move that we reduce the amount allocated for technical assistance and training to \$500,000.

Saltzman: I second that motion.

Kafoury: I see the need for direct services as very high, so would like to reduce the set aside for training.

Hornecker: Is there any comparison to what the City and County spend on training?

Kafoury: I realize this is an apples to oranges comparison. For this year, Multnomah County is spending about \$1.5 million on training; that covers 10 FTE and 6,000 class attendees. This is just one year, but the entire County is spending only this amount.

McElroy: That amount is for training County staff, but does not include training for contractors around evaluation tools that they use or assuring that their program staff, as they turn over, meet the standards for program delivery.

Kafoury: I realize staff does not agree with me. Since technical assistance is new, I think \$500,000 would be an adequate amount for 4 years.

Pellegrino: We asked for the money for technical assistance to be set aside so that we could work with the grantees to plan and learn what is needed. If the money is not needed, it would be returned to the pool for allocation to grants.

Young: I realize we have one motion on the floor, but it will be followed on the other. It is difficult to make a decision on the first without having more information on the other. We decided that the \$1 million was a relatively small percentage over 5 years. I would like to see how it works.

Saltzman: While I support this motion, I do not necessarily support the second motion.

Hornecker: I am a strong proponent of the training; I really believe in it. I do feel like \$500,000 can give us a good opportunity to test what we can do. I am in favor of the motion. I also have a strong interest in seeing the training happen.

Proposal – Reduce technical assistance from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000 over 4 years.

Vote: All in Favor

Kafoury: I move that we allocate \$500,000 to the Yu Miao Preschool. What we have heard from the folks who presented, in our efforts to fund culturally specific efforts, we have neglected one important group. While staff has indicated concerns about the program, I expect these can be overcome.

Stoudamire-Wesley: Second

Kafoury: I wanted to award \$520,000 which was a percentage of their request.

McElroy: My concern is that since they are not drawing down ERDC funds, the amount to subsidize the program may be different from the proposal based on numbers served. I would want to be sure that City dollars be paid to families for costs that the state covers through ERDC.

Kafoury: That is an excellent point. I agree with that.

McElroy: In the recently approved childcare initiative, low income families at this preschool could draw down both ERDC dollars and Children's Levy dollars through Multnomah County Childcare Resource and Referral. There might be other ways for Yu Miao could support low income families with dollars already committed.

Kafoury: It is my understanding that the preschool could use the \$500,000 to open a new classroom serving 20 children.

McElroy: That would be a fully subsidized classroom without any ERDC or Childcare Initiative dollars.

Kafoury: I would imagine that once they get connected to the other funds, they could grow the number of classrooms.

McElroy: Yes, if there is a market for that.

Saltzman: We might take some time and deliberate on this. We could have a subsequent meeting.

Kafoury: I think Dan's suggestion is a good one.

Saltzman: My intention would be to vote against the motion in order to have opportunity to consider other programs.

Hornecker: I was fairly impressed with the percentages of Asians in the population quoted in the testimony. I would like the staff to provide demographic background to help us address the equity issues involved.

Kafoury: I withdraw the motion.

Saltzman: We would like staff to work with the committee to review the proposals that garnered support in the past including this preschool proposal.

Young: I would like to hear more from staff about the Neighborhood House preschool slots at the Ramona. I would like to know about the diversity there as well. If we are considering allocating more money to early childhood, I would like that information.

Proposed Training for Grantees

McElroy: We are asking for up to \$7,000 for a training expense. This sum is small, and I have spent time in the last year consulting with grantees about this need. I am asking for your approval for a training in the early childhood programs who do home visiting using the Parents as Teachers model.

Under the Levy's 2014 RFI requirements, some of our home visiting programs have been required to increase the intensity of their services. The work they do to strengthen parenting and parent-child relationships has not been measured or reported in their current program outcomes. They are being required to adopt a "family centered assessment tool" for the Parents as Teachers model. It looks at several domains of family strengths and works with the family to set goals on strengths and needs. The tool looks at parent child interaction and parenting behaviors that have not been tracked in the

past. Two programs in the area have used the programs successfully. Other programs are interested, but we have not had the resources to provide the training.

Levy staff has met with staff of the five home visiting programs to share lessons learned from the pilot sites and to discuss whether/how the other programs could adopt use of the tool.

Reasons to pursue:

- Having all programs trained and using the Life Skills Progression would allow all five programs to report on the same parenting and parent-child relationship outcomes.
- The tool looks at several other domains in a family that can be used by the home visitor for goal-setting and service-planning with the family.
- parenting and parent-child relationship scales are of interest to the Levy because of the extensive research literature that suggests the relationship between parents and their children are the foundation to many other child outcomes later in life, including kindergarten readiness and success in school.
- The tool is being used across the country in culturally specific and mainstream programs, including those that serve refugee and immigrant families, Native American families, Latino families, and African American families.

Training would be led by the developer of the tool, Dr. Linda Wollesen for up to 40 staff (home visitors and program supervisors). Training costs include Dr. Wollesen's fee for providing the training, her travel costs, and associated costs for hosting the training (e.g. room rental, food for participants, and interpreters for staff for whom training in their primary language may be more productive and meaningful). The training will be open to other Levy-funded home visiting programs (focused on serving young children), and home visiting programs outside of the Levy's grantees that are interested in the training. We have identified 23 staff, 14 are new and never training, 9 for refresher. We could open slots to others interested. The County might also have an interest in this training.

Levy staff and grantee program supervisors are requesting approval of the expenditure now so that training can take place this summer.

Having this training would allow the programs adopting the tool to begin using it immediately with families entering services this summer and fall, which will in turn allow programs to collect a full year of data for next year's annual outcome reports.

Recommendation: Approve Training Expenditure of up to \$7,000 for parenting outcome measurement tool in early childhood home visiting programs.

Hornecker: Is this training for all of the programs we fund?

McElroy: It would be provided for all early childhood, home visiting programs that we fund that use Parents as Teacher. This tool can be used by programs that use other models. This training is for an assessment tool that is a best practice for Parents as Teachers. This will be mandated for the programs that use this model.

Stoudamire-Wesley: I move that we adopt the staff recommendation.

Young: Second

Vote: All in Favor

Saltzman: While we are fortunate to be able to allocate additional funds, there are never enough funds for all the deserving programs. I thank all the folks who work to serve Portland's children.

Our next meeting is not currently scheduled.

Adjourned 4:50 pm

