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## Safety and Well-being Committee Summary Minutes

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**Tuesday, October 27, 2015      1:30 PM      City & County Building, Room 391**

**Committee Members:** New, Chair; Kniech, Vice-Chair; Clark; Flynn;  
Kashmann; López

**Committee Staff:** Debra Bartleson

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**Council Members Present:** New, Clark, Flynn, Kashmann

**Members Absent:** Kniech, Lopez

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### Presentations

**1                      Body Worn Camera demonstration**  
*Commander Archer, Denver Police Dept.*

Commander Archer, Denver Police Dept. (DPD), Sgt. Lighthouser, and Officer Graves demonstrated how the Body Worn Camera (BWC) is worn and how it works. Phones are additional purchases to connect to the BWC equipment. The equipment is part of an officer's suiting up for the day. Councilmember Flynn asked if the PPA (union) wants to negotiate this as part of the collective bargaining process. Commander Archer said she didn't know what the position is for BWC and bargaining. She added that DPD will be implementing the program in the next 2-5 weeks.

**2                      Briefing: Dept. of Human Services**  
*Don Mares, Manager of the Dept. of Human Services; Jeff Holliday, Andrea Albo, and Jay Morein, Dept. of Human Services*

Don Mares, Manager of Denver Human Services (DHS), stated that a press

conference by the Mayor this past summer led to the work of the Child Safety Net Impact Team. The team was created in July with an Executive Committee with various members and subcommittee work. They are currently in Phase 1 recommendations and primarily working on training all city employees on how to identify neglect and abuse of children and reporting (see attachment). He noted that Councilmember Lopez asked how he was addressing the employee morale and compensation. Mr. Mares noted that they are addressing morale and employees are overworked; noting that they serve 1 in every 3 Denverites, and that is challenging. DHS staff and the CSNIT are studying the processes and will make recommendations for solutions. The solutions will impact age 5 and under.

Councilmember Flynn asked about abuse involving the elderly and how that is handled. Mr. Mares noted that is an interesting question; but today's figures and recommendations are related to child safety. Jeff Holliday, DHS, said there is a list of mandatory reporters such as coaches, animal control, police, social workers that are trained in identifying abuse and neglect. DHS receives 30,000 calls annually and a red team meets every morning to discuss priorities and need for more investigation. There are three levels of immediate response and follow up also depends on severity of the situation, said Mr. Holliday.

DHS and the CSNIT are also working collectively to pull together Community Input Sessions to get information out to communities and to create an outreach plan. Jay Morein, DHS, said there are 343 child welfare workers, before the added funding to the budget for the additional 51. DHS has retained a third party review by CSU staff to provide additional information and alternatives.

Mr. Mares said it is important to increase benefits such as the SNAP program; as a family that doesn't have to struggle to survive are less likely to have these types of problems.

Mr. Mares said they are having problems recruiting and retaining employees. Councilmember Clark asked if there are supportive services for fathers and asked what is being done in that area. Mr. Holliday said they used to have a good fathering program and they are anticipating to hear on if they will receive a federal grant to re-engage these services.

Councilmember New asked how DHS coordinates with Denver's Road Home. Mr. Mares said they try to engage with homeless families, but the City is engaged in the bigger conversation with how DHS services are similar to homeless services. Councilmember New said a discussion about mental health could be scheduled at a later time to discuss those issues.

## **Bill Requests**

**RR15-0765**

**Amends an agreement with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), for HCPF's County Medicaid Incentive Program Agreement that will allow the**

**Denver Department of Human Services to earn incentives up to \$1,004,682.88 for the current state fiscal year based upon meeting specific program outcomes as found in the agreement (2014-19599-01).**

*Andrea Albo and Jay Morein, Dept. of Human Services*

Jay Morein, DHS, said the contract proposal is for one year and would allow DHS to earn incentives if they achieve certain performance standards related to Medicaid eligibility and cooperation with other Medicaid related entities. Benchmarks to earn an incentive payment includes the Court Settlement Timeliness Incentive, Collaboration Incentive, Training Incentive, MEQIP Reporting Incentive, and Application Backlog Incentive. The contract could mean that DHS could earn up to \$1 million in incentives and the monies would be deposited in a restricted revenue fund. The Medicaid volume reached 205,872 in the past month and they have assisted with more than \$90,000 for food assistance.

Councilmember Flynn noted the contract is retroactive to July 2015 and asked if the City would be allowed to claim incentives retroactively? Mr. Morein said they just recently received the contract details and the city process wouldn't allow them to fully execute the contract so an extension of time was granted. Mr. Morein said that DHS will be able to claim incentives retroactively to July.

A motion offered by Flynn, duly seconded by Clark, that this item be moved forward carried by the following vote;

AYES: New, Clark, Flynn, Kashmann(4)  
NAYS: (None)  
ABSENT: Kniech, Lopez(2)  
ABSTAIN: (None)