



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting September 8, 2015
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of September 15, 2015

DATE: September 1, 2015

TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager

FROM: Jay Ellington, Director, Parks and Recreation
JayEll@cctexas.com
361-826-3464

Gap Analysis Study for Commission on Children and Youth

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute an Interlocal Agreement in the amount of \$31,192.80 with Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi for the development of an action plan to identify gaps in locally available programs and services to strengthen families and youth development; accepting and appropriating \$5,000 donation from Port Industries of Corpus Christi into the No. 1020 General Fund to be used by the City for payment of services provided under the Interlocal Agreement; and changing the FY 2014-2015 Operating Budget adopted by Ordinance number 030294 to increase revenues and expenditures each.

PURPOSE:

Authorize an Interlocal Agreement with TAMUCC to conduct a study to identify gaps in both privately and publicly supported programs and services available to youth and families in Corpus Christi.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The analysis will be distributed to community partners such as the United Way, the Junior League of Corpus Christi, the Nueces County Community Action Agency, the Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and many other community based organizations. In turn, the Commission on Children and Youth will lead community wide discussions on how both private and public resources can be realigned in effort to address the identified gaps and risk factors that negatively impact our community's ability to thrive.

The Commission on Children and Youth is directed by the City of Corpus Christi City Council to gather and organize information, promote the development and strengthening of effective and efficient services, encourage collaborations and advocate for beneficial policies for children and families. Research has shown that communities need current, valid, and readily available information for the purposes of policy creation, program development, grant writing, and program evaluation. To these ends, the Commission supported a Data Collection and Analysis Project and the production of its primary analytical report in 2014: Nueces County Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factor

Data and Trend Analysis. The study identified an integrated cluster of causes that contribute juvenile delinquency and a failure to thrive that includes:

- Extreme economic deprivation
- Family conflict and management problems
- Early onset of problem behaviors
- Lack of commitment to school
- Unfavorable parental attitudes and behaviors.

These factors are related by cause and effect with each risk factor serving to compound the effects of others.

The findings of the primary analytical report paint a clear picture of the struggles that families in Corpus Christi face to maintain a positive environment for youth to grow and develop. For example, the report includes median income and poverty rates in Corpus Christi. While per capita income has steadily increased, households in Nueces County earn on average \$3,000 less than households throughout the State of Texas and 21.8% of families in Nueces County live in poverty as compared to 18.50% in the State. The worsening earnings gap and economic conditions for a significant segment of our population is accompanied by increased rates of reported child abuse cases (29.9% higher than the State) and family violence reports (120.3% higher than the State).

The analysis also presented a social development theory suggesting that specific programs and services offered by a community (public, private, or non-profit in nature) can generate protective factor effects which ameliorate the negative effect of the risk factors. To reduce problem behaviors, community prevention and intervention efforts should be targeted at the risk factors and aim at strengthening of positive factors.

A coordinated, seamless continuum of protective factors can only be woven through a collective effort between community organizations (public and private), school systems, families and peers. To this end, understanding Corpus Christi's current level of services, programs and resources to create protective factors is critical. The Commission on Children and Youth plans to take the next step in the collection of information so that all organizations (private, non-profit and public) can make informed decisions about where to spend valuable resources to make programs and services available.

This study will measure availability, accessibility and adequacy of prevention and intervention services and programs to youth and families. For instance, family counseling services may be offered in the community, but are there enough counselors and programs to meet demand, are they offered at times that are feasible for families to utilize and can families afford them. The study will take approximately 12 months to complete.

Coupled with information provided in the Risk Factor Study, the findings of the Gap Analysis will help community leaders further understand the landscape of needs and redirect or enhance resources to meet those needs. Without such an analysis, resources, actions, and effort may be misdirected and needs remain unmet, problems are not addressed, and waste occurs.

The information provided in the analysis will help organizations throughout the community make informed decisions about where to focus their resources by identifying where gaps (and overlaps) in the continuum of care exist. For instance, the study may

indicate there is a saturation of assistance programs for adults who teeter on the verge of homelessness in the community but a lack of resources or programs for families with young children who face the same problem. The information would provide a platform for both public and private entities to discuss opportunities to shift resources to provide adequate services and programs for both populations.

The Port Industries of Corpus Christi's grant to help fund the analysis demonstrates the important link between the health and wellness of a community's youth and the strength of its economy. The gap analysis will also help business and industry identify where they can support efforts to train, educate and inspire their future workforce and leaders.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve ordinance.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Not applicable.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

City Council must approval all.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-emergency.

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

X Operating

Revenue

☐ Capital

☐ Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2014 & 2015	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget		\$26,192.80		\$26,192.80
Encumbered/ Expended Amount				
This item		5,000.00		5,000.00
BALANCE		\$31,192.80		\$31,192.80

Fund(s): General Fund

Comments: None

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance

Interlocal Agreement