

Approved by HSAB on May 21, 2008

been crippled, and employees that are leaving will not be coming back. She asked how some agencies will be able to keep their doors open and offer services.

In reply, Commissioner Spehar discussed funding cuts from the State and the fact that the County had high reserves, but the public kept coming to the County for more services but not higher taxes. The Vandenberg sinking and the Hickory House purchase were recommended by the County Administrator, who assured the Commission that the funds were there. She added that Amendment 1 will hurt our financial situation more next year, and that we will have to cut service as much as possible without cutting health- and safety-related services.

David Horan added that he remembered that Tom Willi said the funds were there, but, now in hindsight, the Commission should have asked more questions.

Commissioner Murphy said that we should forget how we got to this point, and plan for the future. She added that it will take more than four years to fix our financial problems.

David Horan noted that some organizations may have to go out of business or combine with a similar provider. More collaboration will be a necessity. Alexsa Leto said that she will look at the overall amount needed to run the organization. Travel and personnel costs will be looked at. Some have almost a sense of entitlement, although all do wonderful jobs.

Lynn Mapes repeated his criterion of, "is it nice or necessary?"

Alexsa Leto discussed whether organizations used all of the money budgeted for them, and Dave Owens agreed to supply a report to the board showing percentages of funds used before the May funding meeting.

Lynn Mapes said that we would need to be careful in reducing funding, using the analogy, "will we take a twenty foot wagon and make it a ten foot wagon, or will we take a four wheel wagon and make it a three wheel wagon?"

The board discussed the timeline for the application process. Dave Owens said that he would make the application available as soon as possible, and that it would be due in about eight weeks, probably around April 25th. He said that it would take about one week to distribute the completed applications to board members, and that he would allow about four weeks for them to review the applications. He noted that the Budget Office needs our recommendations by May 30th. The board discussed dates for the funding meeting, and agreed upon a tentative meeting date of May 23rd at 8:30 A.M.

A representative of Womankind asked if taking a voluntary reduction of twenty percent would guarantee funding, and the board replied that it would not.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:32 P.M.