

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
February 27, 2003
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Mr. Greg Holtz, Chairperson
Dr. Carlos Vallejo
Ms. Teresa Cotton
Mr. Michael Graham (Excused)
Mr. Bob Hisserich
Ms. Susan Klecka
Ms. Elaine Nelson (Excused)
Mr. Ken Salas

GUESTS

Teresa Brice-Heames, Housing for Mesa
Alex Moreno, DES

STAFF

Ms. Debbra Determan
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris
Mr. Bryan Raines
Ms. Kathleen Kelly
Ms. Deborah Cooke
Ms. Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Greg Holtz called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and introduced members of the audience.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Teresa Brice-Heames spoke on behalf of the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens, which is hosting their Annual Reception for Social Service Agencies. The reception will be held on Monday, March 24, 2003 at 5:30 pm at 215 N. Robson. The purpose of the event is to bring together various social service agencies with members of the Latino community to exchange information and to network.

REVIEW MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2003 MEETING

A change was made to the January 23, 2003 meeting. Michael Graham was incorrectly recorded as absent. The record was changed to reflect that Michael Graham was in attendance of the January 23, 2003 meeting.

Susan Klecka moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. Carlos Vallejo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

REVIEW HOUSING MONTHLY REPORTS

Ruth Anne Norris of Housing Services summarized the Monthly Housing Reports for January 2003. Board members were given copies of the report, which was streamlined to make it easier to understand.

Under the Section 8 Program, the item titled Housing Vouchers reflects an increase of 66 new vouchers that came to Mesa Housing Services in January.

In Section 2, Item D indicates the number of Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Participants is 85. A Profile Report was attached to the monthly report to provide additional details of the program.

There is a new item located under the Escobedo Affordable Housing Program Occupancy Rate called "number of units leased". Currently there are 2 units in preparation to be leased and are not to be considered vacant.

Graphs have been added to the report. The Chart titled Requests For Housing shows trends and demand for housing from the years 1999 through 2002 indicating the number of people who call or walk into Housing Services. The other chart, titled Families Housed, reflects periods when additional vouchers were received. Ms. Norris clarified to the Board that the graph showing Families Housed includes Section 8 and Escobedo.

The Glossary to Terms was provided to the Board as Greg Holtz requested. Ms. Norris accepted and answered any questions from the Board.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PHA PLANS

Deborah Cooke, Senior housing Specialist, returned to answer questions regarding the Public Housing Authority (PHA) Plan.

Mr. Holtz asked if the City of Mesa is a HUD funded Housing Authority and if the \$10 million is for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Ms. Cooke stated that the City of Mesa's Section 8 program is HUD funded but Escobedo, City of Mesa's affordable housing is not. The \$10 million include funding from HUD for Housing Rehabilitation, the FSS Coordinator, and the Home Ownership Coordinator for one fiscal year. The numbers have increased because the needs have increased making the waiting list for housing longer.

The 5-year Consolidated Plan was discussed. Mr. Holtz requested that the members be provided with a copy at the next meeting. Kathleen Kelly suggested providing copies of the Executive Summary only due to the size of the document.

Mr. Holtz took a motion to recommend or not recommend the plan. Ms. Klecka moved to approve the Public Housing Authority Plan as presented by Deborah Cooke. Ken Salas seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF CDBG/HOME APPLICATIONS

Kathleen Kelly referred to the 03-04 CDBG/ HOME Application. Information was sent out to the Board for review prior to the meeting with the relevant materials of each application for housing and public service activities. A list of all applications received for the federal programs were provided along with a copy of the City of Mesa's policy guidelines. Ms. Kelly asked if there were any questions regarding the housing and public services applications received for CDBG and HOME. Ms. Kelly stated that this is not staff's final recommendation. It is an initial recommendation because they have not yet received official notification of the funding allocations.

Ms. Kelly added that this year, a 30-day Public Comment period will be held to allow citizens to provide comments. The Public Hearing will be held Monday, March 3, 2003 at 5:45 pm in the lower level Council Chambers.

Ms. Kelly stated that estimates of a \$600,000 increase in CDBG from HUD would be received due to the revision of the 2000 Census data. HOME will increase but the increase will be based on contributions from consortium members so those numbers have not been finalized. ESG is estimated to be \$123,000. This is an increase of \$1,000.

The Public Comment period ends on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, after which the City Council is scheduled to approve the final allocations and programs during the April 7, 2003 regular Council meeting.

A handout was provided to the Board containing the staff recommendations for funding information. Comments can be made on the web site at www.cityofmesa.org/comrev and anyone can access the site to submit comments.

CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON ESG RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Kelly explained that Federal regulations require that a series of Public Hearings be held. Those Public Hearings are for citizen comments and input. This year staff felt it was more appropriate that the Public Hearing for ESG be held in front of this Board as they consider staff's recommendations for ESG and give final approval. The Board will open the Public hearing, take comments, close the Public Hearing, and take formal action on making approval of staff recommendations as they see fit for the ESG program.

Mr. Holtz opened up a Public Hearing and asked if anyone wanted to make comments on the ESG program funding. Karen LaFrance of NEDCO asked what the proposals were. Mr. Holtz stated that there are 3 items under ESG, Prehab Autumn House, Prehab La Mesita and East Valley's Men Center. The recommendation is to allocate level funding from FY 2002, with the exception of an additional \$1000 to Prehab Autumn House. Those recommendations are Prehab Autumn House, \$32,500; Prehab La Mesita, \$25,000; and East Valley Men's Center is \$65,500.

There were no public comments.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ESG RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Holtz closed the Public Hearing and took a motion for those allocations. Ms Klecka recommended approval of the ESG program allocation of funds. Teresa Cotton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

Debbra Determan advised the Board that today is the day that a statewide "Point in Time Study" and survey of the homeless was conducted. Statewide all shelters and facilities counted the number of homeless utilizing their services. The Mesa Police Department has been going out into the community and doing the count. We hope to be able to provide the Board with information regarding the numbers soon.

Debbra stated that the Earned Income Tax Credit Program has successfully gotten under way. There are 3 sites that are available. Just in the first few weeks there have been more families served than all of last year. The publicity has helped tremendously in getting the word out. Additional funds in the community will help the City, non-profits and individuals with expenses. We hope to help the IRS on an ongoing basis.

The City of Mesa, along with Mesa United Way, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Scottsdale, the Valley of the Sun United Way, and The Maricopa County of Governments has been involved in the Needs Assessment process. A consulting team, which includes Tim Smaltz and Sandra Simmons, has been hired and they are meeting with a coalition of people from other agencies. Our hope is to get the H&HSAB involved in the process. The results are going to be very instrumental in how we do

allocations for the next few years. We hope that a similar approach will be done in the West Valley and Phoenix in the near future. The process will be rotated throughout Maricopa County in an attempt to receive updated data. The information will aid in serving the community.

Neighborhood Outreach has been asked to get involved and provide individuals from various neighborhoods that will be trained as facilitators. They will then go back and form focus groups to gain input from those groups. We are currently recruiting facilitators from each Council District to hold focus groups. Focus groups will be held throughout the community. If you have an interest in doing that, please get in touch with Nichole Wamble at the Office of Human Services.

Mr. Holtz stated this could eliminate agencies justifying their needs at different times of the year to different groups.

Ms. Determan advised the Board that this is her last H&HSAB meeting as she has resigned her position with the City of Mesa and accepted a new position with the Maricopa Association of Governments. Ms. Determan hopes to continue her relationship with the City of Mesa and the Board members.

Dr. Vallejo stated that Ms. Determan would be missed and hoped that the Board would be involved in making recommendations for her replacement.

During the February 24, 2003 Council Meeting, Matriculas Consolar cards were discussed. These are identification cards issued by the Mexican Government. A presentation by Mary Berumen of the Diversity Office was made to the City Council that would allow City of Mesa offices to recognize the cards as a legitimate form of identification. This would allow individuals to obtain various City services such as utilities. Many City offices already recognize the cards as identification now the Mesa City Council has made use of the cards official.

The MesaCAN spending plan was discussed. Mr. Holtz stated that the report had sufficient information but would preferred that it be easier to understand.

There are 2 vacancies on the H&HSAB. Additionally, in June the terms of Elaine Nelson and Greg Holtz will expire. Ms. Determan discussed the procedure in which individuals interested in serving on the Board will be recruited and elected. Mayor Hawker will make the final appointments. Eric Norenberg is to be given information on interested individuals.

Ms. Determan stated that the General Fund has \$990,000 to allocate. Going into this cycle there will be approximately \$400,00 less than last year to allocate. This represents both the decreases from the general fund and the loss of the match from the ABC process. Ms. Determan reiterated that the general fund and ABC allocations were combined this year to help streamline the allocation processes.

Ms. Determan suggested comparing United Way applications with General Fund and ABC applications to view which agency is requesting what type of funding and where the funding will come from.

There was discussion regarding making recommendations too quickly. Ms. Determan stated that this is the second reduction to the general fund and that staff is using a projection for the ABC funds and will have a better idea of the total amount available to allocate in the April/May timeframe. The Board should be prepared to make recommendations but caution is advised on making any final decisions. Members of the Board stated that any comments from the staff regarding recommendations would be helpful.

REVIEW NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board discussed reverting to their original meeting time of 5:30 pm effective at the March meeting. Dr. Vallejo made a motion to changing the time to 5:30 pm. Ms. Klecka seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holtz took a motion to adjourn. Ms. Klecka moved to adjourn and Ms. Cotton seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole Wamble, Human Services Specialist