

AMENDED  
HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, LOWER LEVEL  
April 24, 2003  
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

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

GUEST

Eric Norenberg

STAFF

Ms. Nichole Ayoola  
Ms. Kathleen Kelly  
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris  
Ms. Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Greg Holtz welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following changes were made to the agenda and are reflected in the order that follows:

1. Approval of the minutes from March 27, 2003
2. Citizen comments
3. Discussion and consideration of the 03/04 fiscal year staff recommendations

All other agenda items will be dealt with if time allows.

The Staff Report will be given if time allows.

REVIEW MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2003 MEETING

Mr. Holtz reviewed and requested a motion to approve the March 27, 2003 meeting minutes.

Michael Graham requested changes to the minutes. Changes were noted. Susan Klecka moved to approve the minutes with the changes. Teresa Cotton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Representatives of agencies that wished to address the Board were asked to complete blue comment cards. Mr. Holtz requested that each agency only take approximately 2 minutes to speak in an effort to control time.

Mr. Pat Gilbert, Executive Director of MesaCAN, was the first speaker. Mr. Gilbert addressed the funding recommendations of the Neighborhood Services Program and that it was not recommended for funding. Members of MesaCAN's Board and clients were available to comment and answer any questions from the H&HSAB. Mr. Gilbert stated that the MesaCAN Neighborhood Services Program has value and his intent is to convince the Board and Mesa City Council of that value. The program results in low-income people becoming more self-sufficient, the conditions in which they live are improved, and low-income own a stake in their community. With the combined efforts of MesaCAN and the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach, the community will benefit from this service.

Ms. Melissa Schappert, President of MesaCAN voiced her concerns regarding correspondence to staff. She wrote a letter containing her concerns to staff and has not received a response. Mr. Holtz acknowledged that he did receive her letter and intends to respond to those concerns.

Ms. Patricia Medina and Carla Gonzales addressed the Board with their support of MesaCAN and it's Neighborhood Services Program crediting the program with providing their community with a Block Watch Program.

Mr. Dan Taylor of Mesa Senior Services spoke on behalf of a collaboration of non-profit Human Service providers for the East Valley. Mr. Taylor has met with this body of non-profit agencies to discuss how they can increase public awareness of the various services that they provide. He also pledged his support to assist City staff in making the ABC program a success.

Ms. Kristen Polin of Community Bridges (EVAC)/Prevention Partnership Program addressed the Board. She was concerned that her agency's program was not recommended for funding although it had been funded in the past. Ms. Polin educated the Board about the program stating that it has had a tremendous impact on the community by providing high quality substance abuse prevention that reaches over fifteen thousand children and adults. The Board was urged to reconsider the staff recommendation.

Mr. John Lamkin is the Associate Director of Save the Family. He too expressed concerns that Save the Families' Homeless Children's Intervention Project did not receive a staff recommendation for funding. Mr. Lamkin expressed that such a recommendation would cause problems for Save the Family in the near future and will reflect in their ability to provide service to their clients.

Ms. Trisha Miller of Los Racimos Condominiums wished to express support for MesaCAN and it's Neighborhood Services Program.

Ms. Margie Frost, Deputy Director of MesaCAN spoke on behalf of MesaCAN's Neighborhood Services program with regard to the staff recommendation not to fund MesaCAN Neighborhood Service program. Ms. Frost offered that the program affects citizens of Mesa who have been referred to them by City staff. She stated that the program has enabled several individuals who are unable to take care of themselves with yard maintenance, house painting and various other home projects.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF FY 03/04 HUMAN SERVICES STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Before the discussion members of the Board were asked to declare any conflicts of interest. Ken Salas declared a conflict, as he is a member of the Mesa YMCA and Mesa Senior Services Boards. Mr. Graham declared a potential conflict with the Mesa YMCA.

Ms. Klecka suggested that the Board go through each staff recommendations for approval, pulling out only those that a Board member would specifically like to discuss.

Mr. Holtz read off the staff recommendations by agency as listed on staff recommendation sheet. Those with any with exceptions were held for discussion. Those items included:  
Advocates for the Disabled (Disability Claim Services),  
CARE V (Health Program)  
Community Information and Referral (24 Hour Helpline),

Community Bridges (/Prevention Partnership)  
Housing for Mesa (Homebuyer Outreach Program),  
MesaCAN (Neighborhood Services)  
Phoenix Shanti Group (Emergency Transitional Housing),  
PREHAB (Mesa Center Against Family Violence Counseling)  
Save the Family (Transitional Shelter and Case Management)

Ms. Klecka made a motion to approve all staff recommendations that were not pulled out for discussion by the Board.

During the process Mr. Graham stated, “We can’t really approve those and the funding if we discuss the other agencies and decide to increase the funding of those agencies”.

Mr. Holtz advised, “that if members had exceptions to the dollars amounts recommended by staff, to express their concern so it could be discussed by the full Board The Board is voting to approve staff recommendations as written except for those that had been pulled out for discussion.

The motion continued and Ms. Teresa Cotton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Holtz asked that Board members state what changes they would like to make to those recommendations set aside for discussion. Ken Salas requested further clarification for MesaCAN’s Neighborhood Services Program. Ms. Ayoola asked that Ms. Kit Kelly respond to that question.

Ms. Kelley stating that staff recommendations tried to focus on those agencies, which were providing the basic needs of food, shelter, safety and healthcare and that in this tight budget year, Neighborhood Services did not fit into any of those categories. She further stated that even with the reduction of the City general fund money, MesaCAN would still be receiving \$80,000 in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) money, as well as, any potential funding received from Mesa United Way.

Mr. Holtz reminded the Board that this year’s Human Services budget had a reduction of approximately 14%. Mr. Salas stated that he thought that some of the other organizations funded did not meet the basic needs criteria. Ms. Kelley offered that staff recommendations were also made with an effort to keep, as many agencies as whole as possible.

Mr. Salas reiterated that staff was looking at food, shelter and safety for when making funding recommendations. He also stated that he was not in favor of removing any funding from any other sources but that it appeared that some of the staff recommendations may not be for food, shelter and safety. Mr. Salas also asked if there was an issue with past funding allocations and services regarding the MesaCAN Neighborhood Services Program. Ms. Ayoola stated there were some contractual obligations that had not been met, based on the monthly reports received.

Ms. Ayoola addressed the Board. She reminded them the 14% Mr. Holtz mentioned represented a \$250,000 cut from the Human Services General Fund and that there was also a loss of .50 on the dollar from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation for the ABC Program. She explained that she was aware that agencies were receiving cuts from many other places and her funding recommendations were made in an effort to make each agency as whole as possible trying to focus on basic needs as well due to the budget cuts.

Mr. Holtz added that the total requests for funding was a \$900,000 increase from last year and \$400,000 came from agencies that were not funded in the past.

Mr. Salas stated his desire to find a way to create some additional funding for the MesaCAN Neighborhood Services Program.

Ms. Cotton added that she spent many hours reviewing the recommendations and had many questions to clarify. She stated that upon clarification she fully supports the staff recommendations.

Robert Hisserich said that his first priority would be to fund Neighborhood Services and would like to remove funding from Advocates for the Disabled to fund that program. Mr. Hisserich feels that the Advocates for the Disabled Disability Claims Service program is not a necessity because their mission statement reads that they establish the eligibility of individuals seeking government benefits. Mr. Hisserich stated that he felt it was just another stop in a long road of individuals seeking benefits. He recommended taking the \$8,500 and placing it in Neighborhood Services. He further recommended that the \$40,000 recommended for PREHAB/Autumn House be removed and those funds put into Neighborhood Services as well. His rationale was based on the fact that PREHAB has a \$14 million budget. Mr. Hisserich also wanted to remove 10% of the funds from Save the Family/Transition shelter and move it to MesaCAN Neighborhood Services. That total would represent \$20,500 to be transferred.

Ms. Klecka stated that the Board has already approved PREHAB/Autumn House. Recommendations that have already been approved cannot have funding removed. Ms. Klecka further clarified that the PREHAB program that was pulled out for discussion was the Mesa Center Against Family Violence.

Ms. Cotton gave her support for maintaining the Advocates for the Disabled recommendation.

Ms. Klecka stated that she would like to see any funds that are pulled out allocated to Community Bridges (EVAC)/Prevention Partnership. She would not recommend removing funds from Save the Family or PREHAB. She would however recommend removing funds from Phoenix Shanti Group and given to fund the Community Bridges (EVAC)/ Prevention Partnership.

Mr. Holtz also recommended removing funding from Phoenix Shanti Group and retaining staff recommendations for Save the Family. He suggested that the balance of funds should be allocated to the Community Bridges (EVAC)/ Prevention Partnership.

Mr. Graham stated that he supports staff recommendation for zero funding of Community Bridges (EVAC)/ Prevention Partnership Program. He wanted to know why Housing For Mesa withdrew their request for funding. Ms. Ayoola stated that their application was funded by CDBG funds instead of ABC or General funds. Ms. Kelly stated further that they applied for both fund sources knowing that they may not be able to get general fund dollars based on the budget reduction.

Mr. Graham wanted to know how he could find out about other funds that MesaCAN is receiving. Mr. Holtz said it was available in the proposal.

There was discussion regarding the question that Mr. Graham posed to the Board regarding MesaCAN's budget. Ms. Klecka stated that this research should have been completed before the meeting because of time constraints. Mr. Holtz stated that questions should have been brought to

staff's attention beforehand. If questions were asked at this session regarding each agencies source of funding at it would not be fair to other agencies. Mr. Graham asked Ms. Kelly to clarify that MesaCAN will be receiving the \$80,000 and also if she knew of any other funds that the agency would receive. She referred the question to Ms. Ayoola who was now of aware of the other fund sources supporting this program.

Mr. Holtz stated that it is not appropriate to focus on the sources of funding for any one agency. He further stated that the Board has had the proposals for at least three months and staff gave ample opportunity to have their questions clarified.

Mr. Graham stated that recommendations were received five or six days ago and he has only had five days to review the staff recommendation. He asked for clarification on the written recommendation regarding MesaCAN. Mr. Holtz stated the recommendation was based on the priority structure of basic needs and Neighborhood Services has not met the requirements and goals outlined in the contract.

Upon clarification from the agency, Ms. Ayoola stated that the \$67,606 is approximately a third of their budget. She further stated that several of the Neighborhood Services goals as outlined in the current years contract had not been met based on the monthly reports received.

Mr. Graham stated that he supported the removal of funds from Phoenix Shanti Group, did not want to remove funds from Save the Family, and asked why PREHAB/Counseling Service withdrew.

Ms. Ayoola stated that PREHAB was unable to retain a full time counselor with the transition of the crisis counseling services from the Center Against Sexual Assault to PREHAB, which left available ABC funds from 02/03 to be used in 03/04. She explained that they maintain sufficient ABC funds to continue those programs the next fiscal year.

Mr. Hisserich felt that funds should be removed from Community Information and Referral because there are other agencies that provide similar services to the community.

Ms. Cotton stated the Community Information and Referral service is of value because there is always someone available to speak to a caller 24 hours a day.

Mr. Holtz stated that to continue the allocation process on those agency programs pulled out for discussion he would like to call them out and ask for a motion to maintain the staff recommendation or to decrease.

Ms. Klecka made a motion to retain the staff recommendation of \$8,500 for Advocated for the Disabled. The motion was seconded the motion. The motion had 4 ayes and 2 nays.

Ms Klecka made a motion to retain the staff recommendation of \$15,000 for CARE V Partnership Health Program. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The vote had 5 ayes and 1 nay.

Ms. Klecka made a motion to retain the staff recommendation of \$10,000 for Community Information and Referral. Ms. Cotton seconded. The vote had 5 ayes and 1 nay.

Ms. Klecka made a motion to retain the staff recommendation of \$0 for MesaCAN Neighborhood Services. Ms. Cotton seconded the motion. It was a tie vote of 3-3. Ms. Klecka clarified that according to Roberts Rules of Order in a tie-vote, upon revote the chairman should abstain.

Ms. Klecka made a motion to remove the \$5,000 staff recommendation from Phoenix Shanti Group. Mr. Hisserich seconded the motion.

Mr. Graham clarified that based on previous motions there was \$5,000 from Phoenix Shanti group that was available to be allocated.

Ms. Klecka made a motion to retain the staff recommendation of \$205,000 for Save the Family Transitional Shelter case management. Mr. Graham seconded the motion.

Mr. Holtz entertained a motion to allocate the \$5,000. Ms. Cotton stated that \$5,000 is not much money relevant to the size of the agencies budgets. She questioned if research could be done on opportunities for additional funds.

Ms. Klecka clarified that there were no extra funds as the general fund was capped at \$990,000 and all ABC dollars have been allocated to date.

Ms. Ayoola further clarified that the ABC allocations were actually a conservative estimate through June 30 2003. She stated that the donations were averaging \$15,000 a month in ABC funds.

Mr. Holtz stated, based on the previous motion the \$5,000 remaining could be awarded to two agencies that were pulled out for discussion but had not received staff recommendations. Those agency programs were Community Bridges /(EVAC) Prevention Partnership or MesaCAN Neighborhood Services.

Ms. Klecka stated that with \$5,000 they would not be able to fully restore MesaCAN Neighborhood Services nor Community Bridges /(EVAC) Prevention Partnership to their previous funding level

Mr. Graham made a motion to use the remaining \$5,000 to partially fund MesaCAN Neighborhood Services. Mr. Salas seconded the motion. The vote had 5 ayes and 1 nay.

Mr. Holtz asked for a recap. Ms. Ayoola stated that a motion was passed to remove the \$5,000 staff recommendation from Phoenix Shanti Group and in a separate motion, that funding was allocated to MesaCAN Neighborhood Service.

Mr. Holtz stated that the Boards recommendations would be taken to City Council for approval next month.

Mr. Graham asked if the ABC fund has extra money, could that money be used to fund some other programs. Mr. Holtz stated that based on staffs comments the ABC recommendations were already based on a conservative projection.+

Ms. Cotton excused herself from the meeting.

## STAFF REPORT

Nichole Ayoola stated that with regard to finding a replacement for the ABC match, she wanted to make everyone aware that for the past year I've been working on a regional approach with the other city utility bill programs throughout the East Valley to try and find a match for those dollars. Major foundations and corporations have been contacted to discuss the need for additional funding. Two proposals have been submitted to local foundations in an effort to receive some additional funding to market the program to the community.

## ADJOURN

Mr. Holtz stated that responses would be made to correspondences received within the last 48 hours from MesaCAN.. With no further business, he then took a motion to adjourn. Ms. Klecka moved to adjourn and Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Specialist