

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
August 26, 2004
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig
Mr. Raymond Jones
Ms. Judy Kent
Ms. Kim Reynolds (Excused)
Mr. Ken Salas (Excused)
Mr. Robert Hisserich
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Judy Kent was asked to chair the meeting until elections take place. The Board members and staff were introduced.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen's comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 22, 2004 & MAY 27, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were approved after the following changes were accepted:

- Typographical error on the minutes of April 22, 2004
- Attendance of the minutes from May 27, 2004

DISCUSSION OF ELECTIONS

Elections were postponed until a full Board is seated.

BOARD RETREAT SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

Nichole Ayoola explained the objective of the Housing & Human Services Advisory Board Retreat to be held on September 11, 2004. Sandra Mendez from the Department of Economic Security will speak about what it is to be a Community Action Agency. The Board will discuss strategic planning, the human services funding and application process and Board priorities. An agenda will be sent prior to the meeting.

Lisha García, the Neighborhood Services Manager provided Ms. Ayoola with a message to read to the Board. Ms. García thanked the Board for their hard work and expressed her regret for not being able to attend the meeting. She does look forward to working with the Board and meeting all the members during the retreat.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM REPORT

The Board was given a spreadsheet outlining MesaCAN's expenditures. Bob Perry, the Financial Specialist for Community Revitalization developed the spreadsheets and would be available to explain them to the Board if necessary. Ms. Ayoola explained that part of the

responsibility of being a CAA is to review the financials. She explained that these will be included in future packets.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING BOARD

Ruth Anne Norris discussed the development of a Housing Board. Last year the Housing Master Plan was adopted. The plan initiates the creation of a Housing Board. The Board would set goals and track progress of those goals. The Board would be diverse and represent all types of housing in Mesa. She hoped that the Board would be established in the next three to four months. The housing issues would then be transferred from the H&HSAB to this new Housing Board.

MONTHLY HOUSING DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ms. Kent asked about the time it takes to prepare a vacated unit for occupancy. Ms. Norris explained that it varies depending on the condition that it's left in and how long it was occupied. Serious repairs require more time especially with only two staff members completing those repairs.

Ms. Norris explained that Escobedo is not a public housing project and hasn't been since the early 1990's so it doesn't fall under HUD regulations. It's owned and operated by the City of Mesa as affordable housing. There are six families that receive Section 8 and have elected to use their vouchers at Escobedo. Section 8 tenants have a choice of where they use their vouchers as long as the landlords accept the voucher.

Ms. Kent asked if there had been a noticeable affect to residents because of the rental increase. Ms. Norris stated that tenants were given time to adjust their budgets and there hadn't been any problems due to the rental increase.

Mary Bolig asked if any tenants asked for an exception. Ms. Norris stated that no one has but there were a few who indicated that they were unhappy and upset. Once they took a look at the rental market they realized this was the best situation.

Ms. Norris reviewed the Housing Report. There were some errors that were pointed out and changes were made but were not reflected in the report. The waiting list (2C) is higher than 1314. In June it was 1479. Housing Services has two waiting lists. One was established in 2002 and is down to about 200 and the new wait list was established in April 2004. This list had between 1200-1400 applicants. Ms. Norris stated she would check the numbers and report the corrections to the Board. Raymond Jones asked about the May report, which listed 653. Ms. Norris stated that the April numbers are not included.

Also discussed was section D, under Special Programs. Hope Participants lists five but it should be zero because the program is no longer offered. HUD ended the funding, which offered services to the frail elderly. Section 8 is for independent living and the Hope Program experimented with funding to provide additional services to frail elderly. Housing Services tried to transition those participants to other providers of assisted living using administration funds.

Ms. Norris pointed out that in July there were 10 units listed under the rehabilitation program. All ten were emergency repairs, which included air conditioning repairs. Most are calls from the elderly, which because of their age, could have their health and life threatened without the repairs. This is done under the grant program.

Mr. Jones found a few errors in the dates on the report. Ms. Norris stated that she would make corrections.

Ms. Norris explained Housing Services' new rental rates and reasons for the increase to Robert Hisserich who was recently appointed to the H&HSAB. She also gave information on the Housing Rehabilitation Program, which has the objective of preserving housing stock and prevent people from becoming homeless. The money is funded through the Community Development Block Grant from the City's allocation. They apply every year for funding and generally receive a portion of funding.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT INITIATIVE

Stefanie Garcia explained the American Downpayment Initiative (ADDI). ADDI became law December 16, 2003. The City has been allocated \$185,656 over a two-year period for the (ADDI) program, which would be administered by HOME Investment Partnerships Programs. The funds would help qualified low-income, first time homebuyers. The goal is to increase homeownership, created a greater opportunity for homeownership among lower income and minority households and help revitalize and stabilize communities. Community Revitalization and Housing Services is currently working on ways to implement the program. Applications would probably be taken in the fall.

ABC DONATION CHART

Ms. Ayoola discussed the A Better Community (ABC) donation chart and the new brochure that explains how utility customers can donate to the program. The City has over 150,000 utility customers that could potentially donate to the program. Currently, the Office of Human Services has been collaborating with the cities of Scottsdale and Tempe on a regional marketing approach that would promote the programs valley wide. Ms. Ayoola also mentioned a marketing group called H304 Charities, formerly affiliated with Cooley Charities, which fund marketing and public relations opportunities.

Ms. Bolig asked if there was an audit of the funds being donated to the ABC Program. The year-to-date doesn't seem to make sense to her on the new format. Ms. Ayoola didn't have that information but the system isn't fully operational at this time. Ms. Kent suggested having a "thank you" placed some where on the bill for those that donate.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Ayoola reported on the Community Action Agency Board meeting that she attended on August 13, 2004. The meetings give an opportunity to compare best practices with other community action agencies. The next meeting will be in October in Globe.

The Office of Human Services is working with Mesa United Way to produce a common application for the human services programs funding process. Ms. Ayoola asked that if any Board member would like to be involved to contact the office.

An announcement was made that Lisa Wilson was recently hired as the new Human Services Specialist. There were over 140 applications received and evaluated. Eight people were interviewed and Ms. Wilson was hired. She will be managing 19 human services contracts. She will also be performing special initiatives and one of those initiatives is the EITC Program. An update was given on the Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative. Mesa United Way and the City of Mesa are applying for a grant from J.P. Morgan/Chase Foundation that could provide additional equipment and technical assistance for the program.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn and Linda Starr seconded his motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator

lw/NA