

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1st STREET, LOWER LEVEL
January 27, 2005
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig
Mr. Jon Burroughs
Mr. Robert Hisserich
Mr. LaShawn Jenkins
Mr. Raymond Jones (Excused)
Ms. Judy Kent
Mr. Ken Salas (Excused)
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

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

GUEST

Mr. Pat Gilbert
Mr. William Egan Sr.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Robert Hisserich chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone, as Raymond Jones was unable to attend. Members of the audience included Mr. Pat Gilbert Executive Director of MesaCAN and Mr. William Egan Sr., Housing Governing Board candidate.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

OCTOBER 28, 2004 & NOVEMBER 18, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of October 28, and November 28, 2004 were approved unanimously.

MONTHLY HOUSING DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ruth Anne Norris, Mesa Housing Services Director gave an overview of the December Housing Report. Housing Services received 633 new requests for housing assistance for a total of 3,356 since July 2004. Seven families from the Waiting List were leased, six new port-in families were absorbed in Mesa's program, and eight families were terminated for various reasons, including voluntarily surrendering their vouchers. The Section 8 lease-up rate decreased from 95 percent compared to 92 percent for December, and the Affordable Housing lease-rate increased slightly from 94 percent to 95 percent. Housing Assistance Payments totaling \$815,144 were paid to 727 private sector landlords for properties in Mesa.

Ms. Norris also gave an update of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. The program received money from the Community Development Block Grant to pay for childcare and transportation for participating families.

There were several questions regarding the reports and the turn over chart from Raymond Jones. Mr. Hisserich posed those questions for Mr. Jones. Ms. Norris gave clarification to the Board regarding the November Housing Report in which an error was made indicating the number of units that were under construction as two. The correct number is five. Similarly, both the November and December reports show no elderly were assisted with housing. Ms. Norris stated that she wasn't sure if any elderly were pulled from the waiting list but that she would refer the question to her staff and have that information for the next meeting. Mr. Jones also pointed out that during October and November of 2004 there seemed to be double the amount of resident turnover according to the Housing Assistance Turnover chart. One reason for this could be that residents must be recertified for eligibility every year.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Nichole Ayoola explained the purpose of the Conflict of Interest forms that the Board members received with their packets. The H&HSAB members are to declare any conflicts (i.e. affiliations with any of the agencies that applied for funding to the City of Mesa) using the form and return the signed form to Ms. Ayoola

DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION OF HOUSING BOARD RESOLUTION

Kathleen Kelly, Director of the Community Revitalization Division gave the Board an update on the Housing Board Resolution. A Council Report to introduce an ordinance that revises the H&HSAB composition into two separate boards; one for Housing and one for Human Services has been submitted. She stated that the ordinance would go to the Council Study Session as soon as it is completed.

REVIEW SECTION 8 RESIDENT APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION & RECOMMENDATION TO HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD

Ms. Norris spoke about the Mesa Housing Services Annual Plan and explained that the Housing Governing Board as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must approve it.

The H&HSAB members interviewed one of the two new candidates for the Housing Board. Mr. William Egan Sr. provided the Board with information regarding his background and experience, and why he would like to be considered for the Housing Governing Board. He has been a resident of Arizona since 1953 and obtained a Law Degree from Arizona State University. Mr. Egan retired in 1995 due to past health reasons but now has a strong desire to give back to the community.

2005-2006 PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Ayoola discussed the allocation process with the Board. She stated that each month agencies would be reviewed and discussed using the site visit schedule prior to making recommendations. Each team was asked to attend the site visits scheduled for their service area and also encouraged to attend any that are of interest.

Community Bridges, MARC Center and Empact were reviewed and discussed. Community Bridges applied for funding in the areas of Prevention/Early Intervention and Crisis Services. Members who attended were pleased with their site visit. The MARC Center applied for funding of two programs. Early Intervention Services and Sheltered

and Supported Employment are in the area of Prevention and Early Intervention and Transitional Services. Board members stated that the new facility was wonderful. Mr. Hisserich asked why the City of Phoenix offered no contributing funds since more of their residents participate in the programs provided by the center. We would request information on whether the City of Phoenix along with other cities had contributed or were requested to provide any funding of programs.

Ms. Kelly stated that Community Development Block Grant funds were used to build the new facility. Ms. Ayoola referred to the program budget included with the addendum by city or government agencies.

The Impact Suicide Prevention Center has applied for funds for two programs. The Senior Peer Counseling program provides counseling and support groups for seniors 65 and older who experience depression. The Sexual Assault Services program provides counseling for sexual assault victims along with in-home therapy. Board members comments stated, "That while Impact collaborates with PREHAB of Arizona, the program is very similar to that of the Center Against Family Violence" (which is a PREHAB program).

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Kelly explained the purpose of the 5-Year Strategic Plan. Each city with a population over 50,000 is eligible to receive entitlement funds based on population, poverty and age of the housing stock. The City of Mesa Community Revitalization Division has mailed surveys to seek community input for the plan. The public is asked for feedback regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) to aid in completing the 5-Year Strategic Plan. Ms. Kelly stated that her division tries to project the needs of the City of Mesa through the use of the survey. The survey is available online and needs to be received by February 8, 2005. A public hearing would be held on February 22, 2005. The information is due to HUD by May 15, 2005.

STAFF REPORTS

Lisa Wilson announced that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, which offer free tax preparation, would open on February 5, 2005. There will be three sites open from 10 am-2 pm, located at Mesa Community College Main and Red Mountain Campus and the Mesa Family YMCA. She stated that sites will be open from Feb 5-April 9th and that site times and locations are listed on City of Mesa website: www.cityofmesa.org

Ms. Ayoola invited Board members to attend the play "Nickel & Dimed" with the proceeds benefiting the Arizona Community Action Association. More detailed information was contained in the Board packets. The Homeless Count was completed on January 25, 2004 by the Mesa Police Department. Lt. Andrew Alonzo stated that the count went well and the information would be forwarded to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

ADJOURN

Since there no were no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator