

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
FEBRUARY 23, 2006
- MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig
Mr. Jon Burroughs (Excused)
Mr. Robert Brinton
Mr. William Egan
Mr. Robert Hisserich
Mr. Raymond Jones
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

Ms. Kathleen Kelly
Ms. Jane Albin
Ms. Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond Jones, Chair of the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB), called the meeting to order.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS FOR THE EAST VALLEY

Larry Shima, the Business Manager for Holy Cross Church and St. Vincent's de Paul gave a presentation to the HSAB regarding the feasibility of a Human Services Campus for the East Valley. Mr. Shima held a meeting in February to discuss the possibility of creating a Human Services Campus similar to the campus in Phoenix that houses Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), St. Vincent's de Paul, the Day Resource Center and Healthcare for the Homeless. Approximately 30 people were in attendance representing over 25 human service agencies. Representatives from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Department of Economic Security (DES) also attended. During the meeting Mark Holleran of CASS spoke to the group and offered his support. He agreed to forward the business plan used for the Phoenix campus.

Mr. Shima asked the Board for their support and encouraged them to become involved in the effort. This would involve several agencies providing different services for homeless individuals. He stated that there would be an ad hoc committee in which 64 people have already joined. He thanked the Board for their time.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2006 minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS/RECOMMEND ESG FUNDING

Ms. Kathleen Kelly gave a brief history of the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program. The ESG funds are issued by HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) to prevent homelessness and provide shelter to those that are homeless. The amount of ESG for 2006/2007 is \$150,195, which is a decrease of \$462 from FY 05/06 funding.

Mr. Jones opened the Public Hearing for citizen comments. Since there were no comments, the hearing was closed. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the ESG funding amounts of:

- \$30,002 to PREHAB of Arizona La Mesita
- \$38,165 to Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter
- \$79,024 to MesaCAN East Valley Men's Center
- \$3,014 to Human Services Administration

2006/2007 HUMAN SERVICES/ABC/ESG/PROPOSAL REVIEWS & DISCUSSION

The Board discussed agency proposals and site visits. The agencies discussed were A & A Cottages, Survivors Educating Loving Family and Friends (SELFF), and Mesa Senior Services.

A & A Cottages EMPOWER program assists both girls and boys (in foster care), about to reach the age of 18 prepare, for self-sufficiency and independence. The funding request is for \$25,000. Mary Bolig, Bob Hisserich and Lisa Wilson attended the site visit. Ms. Bolig stated that the successes of the people that have completed the program have not been tracked. Mr. Hisserich would like to know how the Mesa United Way views the program. Overall, the proposal was well written and the program seems very much needed.

Bill Egan, Raymond Jones, and Lisa Wilson attended the site visit to Survivors Educating Loving Family and Friends (SELFF). The agency provides, free of charge, a place for adults with mental illness to dine, socialize and learn how to cope with daily life. ValuOptions provides the majority of the agency's funding. Rita Finney, a SELFF staff member, answered questions for the Board. She gave an overview of the agency. She stated that some clients come from 24-hour care homes, some have apartments, and some live with roommates or family. All members of the staff suffer from some form of mental illness. The funding request of \$3,000 is to supply food and personal hygiene items to the clients. Most are on government assistance and cannot afford hygiene items.

Mr. Jones, Mr. Egan and Ms. Wilson attended the site visit for Mesa Senior Services (MSS) to review Caring Corps, East Valley RSVP and the Home Delivered Meals programs. Dan Taylor, the Executive Director for MSS, was in attendance and gave an overview of the programs and answered questions for the Board.

Mr. Egan asked if there was a membership fee charged to those using the senior center. Mr. Taylor stated that there is a nominal fee of \$12 per year, but the fee is not mandatory, merely a donation from those that can afford to pay and who attend regularly.

The RSVP program request is for \$12,000. The RSVP program is a volunteer recruitment program that matches seniors to volunteer positions with agencies all over Mesa. The positions can be with the City's library, police department or with other nonprofit agencies such as the Child Crisis Center. A 30% match is required to leverage the program.

The Caring Corps program request is for \$10,000 and is a trained volunteer position with the senior center. They deliver meals, assist with various tasks and act as companions to the homebound.

The Home Delivered Meals program request is \$25,000. It offers seniors who are frail, ill or disabled a hot meal. If the program were unable to increase funding, the delivery of meals would have to be reduced.

Robert Brinton asked Mr. Taylor how the City's present budget situation affects MSS. Mr. Taylor said that MSS would have to explore making changes to the services provided, which may include a reduction

of programs. The agency is taking a stand to support the City and educate seniors by providing information on the budget in the MSS newsletter.

Mr. Hisserich asked if MSS pays full price for utility service. The center does pay full price and has been funded \$86,200 for FY 05/06. Mesa Parks and Recreation is also using the facility for various classroom activities. Mr. Brinton added that from the beginning (about 19 years ago) the City was paying for the utilities, and a bill wasn't generated to MSS. In an effort to show that the City was giving back to the community, the billing was tracked and funded using City General funds.

2006 HOMELESS COUNT UPDATE

Ms. Wilson gave an update on the homeless count that took place on January 24, 2006. Each year HUD awards millions of dollars to aid in the prevention of homelessness. It is important that each city participates to obtain accurate numbers. MAG coordinated the count for Phoenix and the East Valley. Members of the Mesa community assisted police officers from Central, Dobson, Red Mountain and Superstition substations during the hours of 8 am to 11am. The official numbers counted will be given at a debriefing to be held in March.

STAFF REPORTS

The Mesa Police Department will be conducting a telephone survey. The survey will ask how citizens feel about the service given by Mesa PD. Ms. Kelly requested that a question be added regarding how important residents view community safety programs such as domestic violence, substance abuse, youth prevention programs, senior programs and emergency assistance (food boxes) programs.

Ms. Wilson gave an update of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) programs. The five sites opened on February 7, 2006. Mercy Housing is the newest site located near downtown Mesa in the Villas De Merced apartments. More information can be found on the City's web site (www.cityofmesa.org).

Chase Bank donated \$5,000 through the Mesa United Way to the Mesa EITC collaboration for the purchase of five laptops, which will be used at Mesa Community College main campus and mobile sites. Vice Mayor Claudia Walters accepted the check during the volunteer orientation in January.

Ms. Wilson asked that any completed agency evaluations be turned in, and there will be no site visits during March 13-17 due to spring break. Jon Burroughs resigned his position on the HSAB to accept a job in Texas, members of the Board divided the site visits that were assigned to Mr. Burroughs.

Ms. Kelly stated that Mr. Hisserich will be assigned to the Housing Advisory Board, and his position will be vacant. This will leave a total of four vacancies on the HSAB.

ADJOURN

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist