

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>st</sup> STREET, UPPER LEVEL  
OCTOBER 25, 2007  
- MEETING MINUTES-**

**MEMBERS**

Mary Bolig  
Robert Brinton  
Charles Brown (Excused)  
Jerry Davis (Excused)  
John Gutierrez  
Raymond Jones  
William McDaniel  
Rhonda Oliver  
Linda Starr

**STAFF**

Lisa Wilson  
Carolyn Olson

**GUEST**

Michael Hughes

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Raymond Jones welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no comments from citizens.

**MICHAEL HUGHES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A NEW LEAF**

Michael Hughes, Chief Executive Officer of A New Leaf spoke with the HSAB regarding the FY 2007-08 funding allocation process. Mr. Hughes began by discussing the MesaCAN-New Leaf transition.

Mr. Hughes explained that last year was a difficult transition for A New Leaf. The agency began operations of the Mesa Community Action Agency, which includes Client Services and the East Valley Men's Center. The recent retirement of Cathy Ryan-Stover, matriarch of the agency also added to the difficulty.

During the site visit presentation for A New Leaf, the Board had requested additional information needed to evaluate the application. The information was not received until a day before final recommendations were to be made to the City Council. The late response resulted in the Board recommending a 10% funding cut for the agency's shelter programs—La Mesita and Autumn House.

Mr. Hughes explained that the agency could not afford a 10% cut and he wanted to bring this to Council's attention. The intention was not to by-pass the Board but to merely inform Council of the consequences if funding were cut. He apologized for any confusion this might have caused the HSAB.

A New Leaf has since hired a quality manager and contracts administrator to prevent these types of situations from reoccurring. He ensured the Board that this situation would not happen again. He admires and takes seriously the work of the HSAB.

Mr. Hughes gave an update on new plans for MesaCAN. Maricopa County wants to utilize space at the facility located at 635 E. Broadway to add to the services and allow clients to easily access other resources. The East Valley Men's Center (EVMC) is seeking funding for remodeling. There are many changes going on to the building located at the Loop 202 and Country Club Drive.

Bill McDaniel commented that the EVMC is nice to have in the community but what about a facility for women? Are there plans to expand the homeless services offered by the center to women?

Mr. Hughes stated that the EVMC currently operates at a deficit. Until funding for the center becomes stable, there are no plans to expand services to women. Mr. McDaniel understood the explanation but stated he would appreciate a place in the East Valley that could provide shelter for single women.

The EVMC sits on three acres and is in need of a new roof, air conditioning, bathrooms and a host of other repairs. The community action office has undergone a major remodel. An older area of the building once scheduled to be demolished, will now be remodeled for use by Maricopa County. La Mesita Family Shelter is also having \$500,000 of repairs completed using foundation funding.

The HSAB members thanked Mr. Hughes for his comments and time.

### **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27 2007 MINUTES**

The minutes of September 27, 2007 were approved unanimously with changes. Additions were made to include the discussion of the joint site visits with the Mesa United Way volunteers and the HSAB.

### **2008-09 ALLOCATION TRAINING UPDATE**

Lisa Wilson gave a brief update of the allocation process and online application training. Training on the use of the system has begun with the nonprofit agencies. There have been no major issues regarding the process. The trainings are being held jointly with the Mesa United Way and the City of Mesa. The deadline for submittal of the applications is December 7, at 4 pm with a hard copy and signature to be received by December 11, 2007. The Board will receive training of the system in January. The training will allow the HSAB members to view and evaluate the applications online. Mr. McDaniel asked to have copies of the applications printed out and bound for him to view.

### **STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Wilson gave a staff report. Items discussed were:

- ABC: A Better Community Utility Donation Program. Donations continue to decrease for the program. Ms. Wilson is working on developing an awareness campaign to help increase donations.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month: October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Save the Family will display artwork created by victims of domestic violence from October 6 through October 31, 2007 at the Mesa Main Library.
- Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week: The Office of Human Services, Paz de Cristo and Neighborhood Services Community Spirit team have partnered for a Turkey/Food Drive to benefit clients of Paz de Cristo. Paz de Cristo will supply a refrigerated truck on

November 14, 2007 from 8 am to 12:00 pm for the drive. Folks can drop off donations at Mesa City Plaza parking lot located at 20 E. Main Street.

Other updates included information regarding the tour of St. Vincent De Paul programs. The tour is scheduled for November 7, 2007. A welcome celebration is being held this evening for returning volunteers of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The event will be held at the Mesa City Utility Building on Mesa Drive.

Mr. McDaniel proposed that the next meeting be moved to November 22, 2007 instead of November 15, 2007. The previous meeting schedule was made to accommodate the coming Thanksgiving Holiday. Ms. Wilson stated that this would be OK as long as the Board agreed. She also stated that a November meeting might not be necessary. The Board would be notified if the meeting were to be cancelled.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist-SA