

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, LOWER LEVEL  
MARCH 23, 2006  
**REVISED**  
- MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig  
Mr. Robert Brinton  
Mr. William Egan  
Mr. Robert Hisserich  
Mr. Raymond Jones  
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February 23, 2006 minutes were approved unanimously.

Human Services Budget Update

Kathleen Kelly distributed information about the 2006-07 Human Services allocations and how the funding could be affected by the cuts proposed by City Council. From 2000-2003 the Human Services budget received an annual increase of five percent. The Neighborhood Services Department budget presentation and discussion was held at the March 16, 2006 Study Session with the City Council. The funding cuts proposed by the City Council to the Human Services budget is about 66 percent. The cuts are to the funding provided to the nonprofit agencies for human service programs and the Human Services Specialist position. Last year's allocations totaled \$1,089,599, and the recommended allocation for 2006-07 is \$410,257. Mesa Senior Services may be responsible for leasing their current facility for \$20,000, changing their funding total to \$66,200.

Preliminary studies indicate that the homeless services would most likely be the top priority if we were to base our funding on the Community Safety Support Model approved by the City Council last year. In addition, staff would look to provide some support for agencies providing crisis services, food and transitional housing. This information should not affect the Board's recommendations. The Council values the human service efforts and also realizes that the prevention programs have a long-term affect. Ms. Kelly stated that national research shows that a \$1.00 spent today saves \$4-\$7.00 in future costs.

City Council has heard the budget presentations from all of the City Departments. They will have an all-day retreat on March 29, 2006 to discuss possibly shifting budget items from either the property tax list or the sales tax list.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed agency proposals and site visits for Community Information and Referral (CIR), Advocates for the Disabled and CARE Partnership.

CIR provides a 24-Hour information hotline. This agency was not funded last year due to budget constraints. Ten percent of their clients are from Mesa. Ms. Wilson pointed out that the State of Arizona has implemented a 2-1-1 online information system, similar to CIR. The funding request is intended for an additional phone operator. Mr. Jones saw a decline in the number of referrals since the 2-1-1 service started and feels this agency's request might come down to a matter of available funding.

Advocates for the Disabled was reviewed and discussed. The agency helps clients obtain social security benefits. They only work with cases that have been denied Social Security benefits. Mr. Hisserich feels that the services are duplicated and involve a long turn-around time. Other members of the Board related personal experiences on the difficulty of appealing to the Social Security Administration once a case has been denied. Clarifying the budget application, they listed \$10,000 coming from both the City of Mesa and Mesa United Way. This program was not funded last year. In 2003-04, 106 Mesa clients were served and a total of \$101,000 was awarded.

CARE Partnership's Youth program was reviewed and discussed. The funds would be used to hire a program director and provide monthly stipends to those youth excelling in the program. Ms. Bolig found the site visit to be impressive but is concerned about the relatively high funding request of \$30,990.

The Emergency Women's Shelter program provided by Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) was reviewed and discussed. The shelter is housed in the new Human Services Campus in Phoenix. It is an integrated approach to homelessness and has a wide variety of programs available for its clients in a central location. Ms. Starr highly recommends this program for full funding. She found the campus, staff, presentation, proposal and partnership with Mesa United Way to be of high quality. It is the only homeless facility in the Valley for adult women. The funding request is \$30,000.

EMPACT Suicide Prevention provides a hotline for clients in crisis. Approximately 10 percent of their clients are Mesa residents, which is about 55 people. The age group range is 18-49 years old. They partner with Mesa Senior Service Center to provide grief and peer support, volunteers and caregiver support groups.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Alzheimer's Association's program for Mesa. The agency provides a support group for caregivers. It has a good outreach education program but does not fit well with the Community Safety Support Model (CSSM) guidelines for funding.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was discussed. Comments were made that expressed concern about the inadequate presentation, incomplete program objectives and lack of solid measurements. This program does not fit well with the CSSM. Mr. Jones believes it is a "slippery slope" for City or government money to be given to BSA. The program's purpose is to teach children independence, self-reliance and fundraising.

East Valley Catholic Social Services, My Sister's Place is a domestic violence shelter. Comments were made concerning the organization's strong local ties to the Catholic Church. Members felt that although the program is a worthy cause, it should be paid for by parishioners and not with government monies. Many of the clients stay for a week or two. Last year they worked with 216 women and children. Recently, the organization has received a grant to expand the facility.

MesaCAN's Community Technical Assistance (CTAC) site visit was attended by Mr. Egan and Ms. Starr, and was held at the Mesa United Way. The CTAC program was clearly explained, and is funded by the Mesa United Way and the City of Mesa. Ms. Starr noted it is a unique program, and that it is a good program to receive funding.

The Child Crisis Center (CCC) of the East Valley has an impressive and needy program. The agency has many funding sources. Currently, there is controversy about taking in children under the age of six years old. An agency in California has filed a lawsuit against the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), arguing that young children should only stay in family environments as opposed to group homes and shelters. One shelter has been closed and foster families are often put into emergency intake situations for which they are not prepared. Siblings can also be broken up based on the ages of the children. CCC works with Child Protection Services (CPS) and is trying to adapt to the new rules, but they will be losing some funding from DES. It is the only shelter that takes children up to the age of eleven. Mr. Hisserich stated that he has contacted two State Senators in hopes of a solution. The Board highly recommends funding of the emergency shelter for children.

Lisa Wilson stated that she would provide the news article about this issue for the Board to review.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Lisa Wilson reminded the Board of a scheduled site visit to the Boys and Girls Club at 7:00AM on March 24, 2006. She also passed out a current ABC: A Better Community Chart with total amount of funding available to date.

Ms. Kelly gave an update on the Community Action Agency designation process. Last year the City Council voted to relinquish the designation. MesaCAN is in a good position to seek and be awarded the designation. The State has indicated they will be putting out Request For Proposals by the end of this month and could award it by the end of May 2006. To allow time for transfer of programs, the new agency will take over on October 1, 2006.

#### ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist