

DRAFT

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, LOWER LEVEL
57 EAST FIRST STREET
OCTOBER 22, 2009
-MEETING MINUTES-**

MEMBERS

Douglas Gerlach
LaDawnna Hudson
Kimberly Nuzman
Katie Rosier
Sophia Tesch
Scott Vanhoogstraat

Michael Petramalo

STAFF

Scott Clapp
Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lisa Wilson welcomed those in attendance at 5:30p.m.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Board elections were held. Sophia Tesch was unanimously selected as Chair and Katie Rosier unanimously selected as Vice Chair.

UPDATE ON MERGING THE HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARDS

Lisa Wilson updated the Board on the plans to merge the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and the Housing Advisory Boards. At this time there are no plans by the Mayor to merge the two Boards.

ABC UTILITY DONATION PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Sophia Tesch led the discussion on the ABC Utility Donation Program. She shared some ideas of how to increase the donations to the program. Marketing and education of the public is the key to the success of the program. Several Board members gave input on how to increase the donations.

- Place ABC Program information on the rear of utility payment envelope
- List serve to utility customer email addresses with donation instructions
- Donate through online method such as Pay Pal
- Solicit donations through businesses
- Incentives such as discounts
- Partner with Westcor/Fiesta Mall

Continued marketing to build awareness of the program will increase donations. We need to make people of aware that they can add more than one dollar to their donation.

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Doug Gerlach asked to staff to investigate how many utility customers are set up on Sure-pay that can donate to the program.

Sophia Tesch asked that the Board attend neighborhood meetings to educate the public on what the ABC Program does for the community. Sophia Tesch participated in the Westcor 40th Celebration Block Party. She was able to advertise the ABC program and hand out magnets for those in attendance.

Mike Petramalo suggested advertising through the newspapers and building awareness of the positive impact of the program on the community. Kimberly Nuzman suggested that a testimonial from an agency receiving funding would be an ideal educational piece.

Sophia Tesch asked if the Board would support activities to bring attention to Homeless Awareness Week.

STAFF REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Funds were allocated for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. The current amount of funding spent in the month of September is approximately \$150,000. Roughly \$400,000 was allocated to be spent on Homeless Prevention category (out of \$1,405,094). It is estimated that the funds for the Homeless prevention category would be depleted by December. Mesa residents are receiving three months in arrears and two months in the future. Clients receive job logs, which are to be filled out on their next visit to receive assistance.

Education is needed to ensure that once the funding is depleted, people will become stabilized and able to maintain their housing. To accomplish this task several suggestions were made by the Board:

- Cap the amount that clients can receive
- Financial education classes
- Get banks involved to setup education seminars

Scott Vanhoogstraat suggested basing the assistance on the needs of the average client. Staff will explore financial literacy classes for the clients coming for assistance.

ADJOURN

With no other agenda items to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.