

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
September 23, 2004
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

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

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Anita Mapes
TeresaBrice-Heames

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Starr was asked to chair the meeting until elections take place. The Board members and staff were introduced.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen's comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 26, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were approved after the following changes were accepted:

- Typographical error on page 3

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the Board welcomed Jon Burroughs, an Engineer with Microchip of Chandler and LaShawn D. Jenkins, a lawyer with Quarles & Brady Streich Lang, LLP of Phoenix.

DEVERAUX ARIZONA, PROFESSIONAL FOSTER CARE

Ruth Ann Vallender, Coordinator for Devereux Arizona Therapeutic Foster Care gave a presentation to the H&HSAB.

Deveraux of Arizona's foster care program provides appropriate foster care placement for children in Arizona with special needs such as emotional disturbances, behavioral disorders, learning disabilities, delinquency and those that are the victim of neglect and/ or emotional physical and sexual abuse.

Ms. Vallender stated that a child in Arizona is born into poverty every 33 minutes; abused or neglected every hour; dies before his/her first birthday every 15 hours; and killed by gunfire every 4 days.

As of March 31, 2004:

- 8,246 children were victims of abuse and neglect
- 2,007 Licensed Foster Families
- 380 children adopted from foster care

The program's purpose is to encourage, assist and support individuals in treatment by collaborating with care providers and child welfare and behavioral health organizations.

Ms. Vallender provided statistics about the characteristics of possible foster care providers. The providers consist of married, divorced and single; almost half of which are African-American. Most have a high school education or GED, which is the minimal needed to qualify for participation in the program. Both parents typically work outside the home although it is recommended that one stay at home. Families come from various religious backgrounds. More than half own their home and have an annual income of \$24,000 to over \$45,000 a year.

The Board members were able to discuss the issues regarding foster care with Ms. Vallender during a question and answer session after the presentation.

OPEN MEETING LAWS

Lisa Wilson gave members of the Board an overview of Open Meeting Laws. Each member was given the "Ethics Handbook for Elected Officials & Advisory Board Members". Ms. Wilson explained the purpose of the Code of Ethics, which is to ensure that all elected and appointed officials and advisory board members have a clear guidance for carrying out their responsibilities.

Ms. Wilson stated that if members of the Board needed more clarification, the City Attorney's Office would be available to provide additional assistance.

CAA MONTHLY REPORT

Board members received copies of MesaCAN's monthly report. Ms. Ayoola stated that the reports would be included in future information packets. Listed on the report are four program areas: Neighborhood and Community Services, Case Management, Client Benefits Expenditures and the East Valley Men's Center. The report includes information regarding budget & expenditures and funding by source. A chart depicting MesaCan's organizational structure was also included.

Board members asked if Bob Perry, the Financial Specialist for the Community Revitalization Division could attend a meeting to explain the spending plan and spreadsheets to Board members. Ms. Ayoola would arrange for Mr. Perry as well as a representative from MesaCAN to attend a future meeting. She then explained the funding breakdown to members of the Board.

The East Valley Men's Center (EVMC) was discussed. The Board wanted to know if other valley cities fund the program. Ms. Ayoola stated that additional funding is provided but some cities have cut funding or threatened to remove it altogether. This would be a critical issue since it's the only shelter in the East Valley that provides services to homeless men.

REVIEW & ADOPT MISSION

During the September 11, 2004 Board Retreat, a mission statement was created by the Board. Board members were given the opportunity to make additional changes to the statement. With a few minor changes, the Board members voted unanimously to adopt the following vision and mission statement:

Vision...

The primary role of the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board is to evaluate the housing and human services needs and available resources of the community in order to advise the City Council how to make a better community while being good stewards of taxpayers' money.

DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSAL APPLICATION & FUNDING PRIORITIES, HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS

A collaboration of the City of Mesa, Mesa United Way, the City of Chandler/Valley of the Sun United Way, the City of Tempe and the City of Scottsdale participated in a discussion about a common RFP that all agencies could use. Ms. Ayoola discussed the process of providing a universal application for the FY 2005-2006 funding allocation process. This application could be used by various East Valley agencies. A common RFP (Request For Proposal) would assist the non-profit agencies requesting funding by allowing them to complete one application. An online application would be made available next year. For the FY2005 funding allocation process, Mesa United Way and the City of Mesa will have a common RFP. The other agencies have already started their process but will be able to participate next year. The Mesa United Way agreed to have members of the H&HSAB participate in joint site visits to the various agencies.

Ms. Ayoola discussed a possible multi-year contract cycle with Board members. The Board was provided with information on a 2-year funding cycle and asked for their feedback.

This allocation process will be similar to last years' as members of the Board will be given their team assignments and program areas. The amount of this budget is not known at this time.

MONTHLY HOUSING DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ruth Ann Norris gave an overview of the monthly housing report. Housing Services received 562 new requests for housing assistance. A total of 29 families received housing assistance. There are 1455 families on the waiting list for housing. Ninety-six percent of the housing vouchers are leased up. There are 226 portable vouchers. These are vouchers that are managed by Mesa Housing Services but are issued by other housing agencies. The other cities keep 20% of the funds for administrative costs and Mesa receives the remaining 80%. As of today's date, there are 18 vouchers that are ported out of Mesa. The Housing Rehab Program completed 16 homes.

Raymond Jones asked why it seems that the waiting list is depleting rapidly. Ms. Norris stated that because the list is so long, by the time there is an opening and people are called their eligibility might have changed, they may have found housing or a number of scenarios could have occurred. Ms. Norris stated that the numbers for "request for housing assistance" seem incorrect and that the error would be corrected. The categories for "elderly" and "family" appear to have been reversed.

Bob Hisserich wanted to know what the typical length of stay for a family at Escobedo would be. Ms. Norris stated that the incomes of family's living in Escobedo are checked yearly so depending on their eligibility they can stay as long as they'd like. One particular family has an income of \$4,000 a year so there are not many places that they could afford.

STAFF REPORT

The Board was asked to consider adding 30 minutes to the existing meeting time due to the amount of information that needed be discussed. The issue will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Board elections will be held in October and a chair and vice chair will be elected.

The ABC donation chart showed a decrease in donations for September. In December you will be able to donate more than \$1. to your utility bill.

ADJOURN

Since there were no further items to discuss Judy Kent motioned to adjourn and Mr. Jones seconded his motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator

lw/NA