

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, LOWER LEVEL  
FEBRUARY 24, 2005  
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Ms. Nichole Ayoola  
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris  
Ms. Lisa Wilson  
Ms. Lisa Hembree  
Ms. Debbie Cooke

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond Jones welcomed those attending the meeting and excused Dr. Ken Salas, Robert Hisserich and Jon Burroughs.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

JANUARY 27, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of January 27, 2005 could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum. The minutes would be approved at the next meeting.

MONTHLY HOUSING DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ruth Anne Norris, Housing Services Director provided an overview of the January Housing Report. The Section 8 Program had 1,402 vouchers leased. Housing Services staff has been working very hard with 96 percent of the units leased. In January, Housing Services made a \$2.87 profit. Housing Rehab has one rental rehab project underway. Future rental rehab projects would focus on the Opportunity Zone. The cash investment requirement tends to be a barrier to some owners and makes it difficult to get them involved. The request for housing was slightly down.

Mr. Jones noted that the housing request for the elderly is still zero. Ms. Norris stated that there is a preference for the elderly, which allowed some of those listed on the waiting list to be housed earlier in the year. Families are now being housed at this time. Housing Services' list is closed at this time but when open, all applications would be accepted including those from the disabled or seriously mentally ill. Housing Services works closely with ValuOptions.

Mr. Jones had a question regarding the Section 8 waiting list. Currently there are 60 applicants being checked for eligibility. Mr. Jones Asked, "If all were eligible, would they all be housed immediately since they were removed from the waiting list?" Ms. Norris explained that they are waiting on verification of the client's income. Also, background checks can take a long time to complete.

#### RECOMMENDATION TO MAYOR FOR SECTION 8 RESIDENT PARTICIPANT TO SERVE ON THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD

Last month the H&HSAB interviewed Mr. William M. Egan, Sr. as a candidate for appointment to the Housing Governing Board. Ms. Norris stated that there were two other Section 8 residents who had expressed interest in serving on the Housing Governing Board. Those applicants had not returned completed applications to date. Mr. Egan's application was the only one completed and received by Housing Services and the Mayor's Office.

Ms. Kent made a motion to recommend Mr. Egan to the Housing Governing Board. She was very impressed with his reputation and background. Linda Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to recommend Mr. Egan to the Mayor for appointment to the Housing Governing Board. *Note: Another Board member arrived, which made a quorum so votes could go forward.*

Ms. Norris stated that she would like Mr. Egan to observe the H&HSAB at the meeting in March. The changes to the Housing Division's agency plan would be discussed and Mr. Egan should be a part of that discussion. This would prepare him for the Governing Board meeting in April. The Board agreed to invite Mr. Egan to next month's meeting.

#### 05/06 CDBG/HOME HOUSING RELATED APPLICATION DISCUSSION

Lisa Hembree discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications included in the Board packets. The City of Mesa received over \$8.4 million in request for \$3,900,000 of available CDBG funds. In the HOME Program the City of Mesa received approximately \$1.9 million in funding request for \$1,143,000 in funds. The 2005 allocations are down. CDBG is \$214,177 less than the 2004 funding. This is a 5.2 percent decrease. The HOME Program received \$92,185 less, which is a 7.5 percent decrease. President Bush has proposed that the CDBG Program be cut drastically and moved to the Department of Commerce (DOC) for FY 2006. Ms. Hembree stated approximately \$3.7 billion is allocated nationally. Approximately thirty percent would be cut from the proposed budget. Staff has no knowledge of the types of activities that would be eligible but according to the White House and OMB (Office of Management & Budget). The City of Mesa has spent less than one percent of CDBG funds for economic development in the past. The regulation has been expanded to allow more flexibility in economic development activities. Prior to this it was only eligible in an extremely limited circumstance.

Ms. Hembree described and explained each agency and the program in which CDBG funds were requested. Pat Gilbert, Executive Director for MesaCAN explained that MesaCAN's Resident in Action Phase II is a planning application to complete design and engineering specifications for co-housing. MesaCAN is the applicant for public housing residents

living in property owned by Maricopa County Public Housing. The application was for phase II of a development project of approximately 3 plus acres adjacent to the public housing. The residents, along with a group of architects and engineers, would design phase I, which would include some owner occupied housing, rental and co-housing. The project would combine commercial and housing on the same property. The project could be valued up to \$15 million and include 40-70 units of housing with room for retail. A part of this is linked to the Mesa Grande Mesa Royale application. The residents have begun to think about business opportunities linked to the project. The project is located at 82<sup>nd</sup> St. and University.

Ms. Kent asked if the project was part of Mesa's Housing Master Plan. Mr. Gilbert did not know. Linda Starr asked if the property was zoned for that type of housing and Mr. Gilbert said that it isn't but it is commercially located. Mr. Gilbert stated, "The current property owners, Lyle Knight and his wife are now at the point of saying, "but we are reserving this for commercial development".

Ms. Hembree continued with the review of the remaining CDBG applications. Ms. Norris described those applications from Housing Services, which include the Rehabilitation Program. This program is funded 100 percent through CDBG and could be cut completely next year if President Bush's proposed budget is adopted. The roofs at Escobedo have been in need of replacement for the last three years. There were hopes to tear down or remodel the units within the next five years but there are no funds available. The units need to have the exteriors painted, which would be done by a contractor. The other item is the Family Self-Sufficiency Supportive Services. The funds would be used to provide transportation and childcare for families that are in the program. They have identified the lack of transportation, childcare and job readiness training as barriers to achieving their goals. Ten families would receive assistance for childcare, 16 families would be provided transportation assistance, 19 families would have tuition paid, and three families would have testing or certification fees covered. There is a cap of \$500.00 per family. There would be a total of 30 families receiving assistance. The remaining items; Project Delivery is the cost of staffing, transportation and phones; Administration is the cost of the housing director's salary and activities such as recording liens; Rental Rehabilitation provides rehab services to qualifying landlords; the Roofing Program replace roofs only; Lead-based Paint Inspection and Abatement is a requirement for rehab projects over \$5,000.

Ms. Kent provided Ms. Norris some information about new HUD funds that offer emergency funds if you don't have funds built up for emergency situations. Ms. Norris said that she would do further research to see if Housing would qualify.

Ms. Hembree then reviewed the HOME applications. She explained that the City of Mesa participates in a HOME Program as a member of the Maricopa Home Consortium. Maricopa County Community Development is the lead agency and includes the Cities of Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Scottsdale, Glendale, Peoria and the Town of Gilbert. Surprise will be joining the consortium in 2006. The City gets reimbursed and reports to HUD through Maricopa County as a consortium. Ms. Hembree described a new activity that the City of Mesa has not undertaken with HOME funds however, since it is included in the

Five-Year Plan, it would be done this year. Ms. Norris explained that since the Section 8 program continues to face cuts we are looking at alternatives to providing rental assistance to qualified families in Mesa. She became aware that under the HOME Program guidelines these funds can be used for a tenant based rental assistance program. This is a pilot project that would provide rental assistance to 20 families. The project would be aimed at the elderly and disabled or families displaced by an emergency.

Ms. Kent wanted to know the amount of CDBG funding that Mesa received last year. Ms. Hembree stated that in 2004 the City of Mesa received \$4,119,000. For 2005 it's \$3.9 million, which is about a \$214,000 cut. The major cuts would occur in 2006 and beyond for CDBG and CSBG Programs (Community Services Block Grants). Ms. Kent stated, "So we have been funding specific programs from year-to-year and all those programs that are depending on funding are in great jeopardy". Ms. Hembree stated that this is correct but we are OK for 2005. After that, multiple-year funding would be evaluated. For example, the MesaCAN building was acquired by the City and then leased back to MesaCAN with a long-term lease. The acquisition was done with one year's funding and the following year CDBG funding was used to complete the rehabilitation to the parking lot. Also, applications that may not be able to be funded in future years would be evaluated. Housing related projects are about half of the CDBG allocations and the other half traditionally goes to public facility activities such as streetlights in the Mesa neighborhoods. The HOME Program, although it was less in 2004-2005, is going to be kept level or a little higher. President Bush wants to do home ownership programs. Council should be getting the funding recommendations early next week for the March 7, 2005 Council Meeting and a public hearing that evening to review the recommendations. The Community Revitalization Division is in the comment period for their 5-Year Strategic Plan (from 2005-2009) for CDBG, HOME and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). The draft is available on the City's website ([www.cityofmesa.org](http://www.cityofmesa.org)). The comment period ends March 24, 2005 and can be submitted online.

#### ABC DONATION/EXPLANATION OF ADJUSTMENTS

Nichole Ayoola explained the adjustment in the ABC (A Better Community) donations. People that donate can do this through an automated system when paying their utility bill by phone. Apparently, errors occurred when the customer was prompted to enter the payment amount a second time for confirmation. The system perceived this as the ABC donation amount. When the errors were corrected there was an adjustment of \$299.30 for the month of July and \$340.51 for the month of August. These corrections are shown in the October chart.

#### ESG/RECOMMENDATIONS/GUIDELINES

Ms. Ayoola explained that the ESG recommendations must be presented as a complete package with the federal programs. For the next fiscal year there is a reduction in the amount of ESG funds available. For 2004-2005 there was \$152,914. This year the amount is \$150,657, which is about \$1,247 less. The recommendation represents funding for three programs for two agencies, PREHAB and MesaCAN East Valley Men's Center. The City has never deducted administrative costs but proposes a two percent administration fee for 2005-2006. Staff asks that the Board approve the new ESG recommendations for 2005-

2006. Mr. Jones proposed noting the two percent administrative fee on the spreadsheet. Ms. Ayoola stated the two percent is a note on the bottom of an updated copy prepared by the financial specialist.

Ms. Kent made a motion to accept staff's ESG recommendations for 2005-2006. The motion was seconded by Mary Bolig and passed unanimously.

#### 2005-2006 PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Jones stated that there were eleven 2005-2006 proposals to discuss. He encouraged Board members to attend their scheduled site visits and reiterated their importance when making recommendations for funding.

Ms. Ayoola added that in the Coordinator's Memo, which will take the place of the staff report, the site visits are a major portion of the Board's responsibility. It gives the critical background that members need when making recommendations and funding decisions. The agencies rely on the education and fairness of the Board. "Please attend the site visits and read the proposals so that you can provide feedback to staff for their secondary recommendations. The H&HSAB makes the final recommendations to the Mesa City Council."

*Empact- Sexual Assault Counseling Program:* Mr. Jenkins stated he and Dr. Salas have not met to coordinate their portion of this proposal. He made a motion to table the discussion of Empact to a later date. Jon Burroughs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

*CARE Partnership- Youth Program:* Ms. Kent and Ms. Bolig attended the site visit for this new program. Ms. Bolig stated that she was impressed with the number of volunteers and the length of service of the volunteers, ASU and Mesa Community College students, which help with the tutoring. They do a lot with little money. A large portion of the money goes to student stipends of \$1,000 each as an incentive to complete the program. There are 46 students enrolled.

Mr. Jones stated that \$1,000 is a lot of money for a junior high school student. Ms. Ayoola stated that it is very structured, as the student must comply with strict guidelines in attaining their goals to receive the stipend. Ms. Kent said that she needed to abstain from the discussion due to a conflict. Mr. Jones stated that he would like to discuss the proposal further at a later date.

*Mesa Senior Services- Caring Corps, Outreach Pharmaceutical, Home Delivered Meals, East Valley Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):* Ms. Starr stated a conflict and would not participate in the discussion. The requests are increases from last year. The Outreach Pharmaceutical Program is extremely needed as well as the Home Delivered Meals Program. The RSVP Program places volunteers in the community and the money pays for their vehicle mileage. The Caring Corps includes volunteer coordination and volunteer mileage reimbursement for driving seniors to doctor appointments, grocery stores, etc. Ms. Kent stated that she would definitely support the programs but maintain

level funding. Possibly, there could be an increase for the Caring Corps or the Pharmaceutical programs in the future. Mr. Jones stated that Mesa Senior Services is proposing to increase the amount of meals served by adding a new route. The Board discussed recommending level funding for Mesa Senior Services.

*Community Information & Referral (CIR):* Ms. Kent stated that she had questions regarding their budget. Programs are listed but the proposal doesn't state what those programs are. Ms. Ayoola stated that the earlier version of the application had locked cells (the budget spreadsheet) and would not allow the agency to enter the program name. The first program, CONTACTS and DVSTOP (domestic violence shelter) hotline is the one the agency is requesting that the City to fund. CIR provides the clearinghouse for other human service agencies and programs in Maricopa County. Ms. Kent recommended level funding for this agency at this time.

*Save the Family- Homeless Children Intervention Program:*

Ms. Starr attended the site visit for this program and thought the presentation was geared toward the specific programs provided by Save the Family. Her questions were answered before she had a chance to ask them. The agency is requesting \$377,000 to provide transitional housing. Ms. Starr stated although she would like to grant the request, the money just isn't there. "It's a wonderful program and the proposals are well written". She recommended level funding unless more became available. The HCIP is requesting \$30,000. The Board recommended level funding for these programs.

*Community Bridges- Prevention Partnership:* The agency requested \$18,600. The Board has discussed recommending level funding for this program. It's an excellent program, similar to the DARE Program, which no longer exists.

*Chrysalis- PAC (Preventing Abusive Conduct) Program:* Ms. Starr, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Ayoola attended this agency's presentation. The program deals with domestic violence prevention. First time offenders of domestic violence are referred to the program by the judicial system or social service agency to attend group-counseling sessions. Ms. Starr stated that the program is very worthwhile. She was impressed with the atmosphere and content of the presentation. Domestic violence prevention is a priority with the City of Mesa and the Mesa Police Department and would be worthwhile to fund.

*Lutheran Social Ministries- East Valley Partners in Caring/East Valley Adult Day Health Care:* Ms. Kent stated that she would recommend no funding because the proposals were poorly written, all questions were not answered, the budget was confusing and the income exceeds the expenses. Ms. Ayoola attended the site visit and stated that this is a new program and is a duplication of services. Sistine Adult Day Care provides the same type of service. Client recruitment was questioned because it is through a church organization and it is not known if they actively recruit outside of the church organization. The Board would discuss the application further.

*Advocates for the Disabled-Disability Claim Service:* An agency presentation was given to Ms. Starr, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Ayoola. Ms. Starr stated that the agency has been

funded in the past. This year's request is for \$10,000. This is a unique service and is provided through this agency only. The agency acts as advocates for disabled individuals seeking social security benefits. Ms. Starr recommends funding the program at the requested amount.

*MesaCAN- East Valley Men's Center:* This program provides a transitional training and living facility for homeless men in the East Valley. The requested amount is \$332,804 for 2005-2006. Last year the requested amount was \$109,498. Ms. Ayoola stated that the increase is due to impending budget cuts and increased levels of service. Mr. Gilbert stated that the City of Tempe is not recommending funding the program, which means a loss of \$20,000 for 2005-2006. The center is a result of the Homeless Task Force which cities in the East Valley (Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Scottsdale and Gilbert) agreed to support by providing funding. They have since pulled back funding for the agency. Mr. Gilbert stated that the bed consumption has increased. The yearly request to Tempe has been \$65,000 but the granted amount has been \$20,000. This year the request to Tempe is \$127,000, which reflects the number of beds occupied by Tempe residents. Scottsdale has been \$50,000 and they have funded at \$35,000 per year. Chandler funds the program at \$45,000 and Gilbert at \$6,800. In order for the program to work, MesaCAN has to raise \$150,000 in donations. The operational needs of the program have to be expressed to the community. Mr. Gilbert suggests that the program needs to be embedded in the City's budget. Mr. Gilbert also stated that MesaCAN's cost of insurance has risen, salaries have been frozen and IRA's suspended.

Ms. Kent asked if the other East Valley cities are depending on Mesa to fund the program and Mr. Gilbert said, "yes". Ms. Ayoola asked if the City of Tempe gave MesaCAN an explanation of why they won't fund the center this year. Mr. Gilbert stated that the East Valley Men's Center is no longer what they intended. It was stated that the City Council should revisit the commitment made to the Homeless Task Force.

*Arizona Action for Foster Care-Foster Family Recruitment/Emergency Receiving Assistance:* Ms. Bolig and Ms. Wilson attended the site visit for these programs. Both programs are very worthwhile. Ms. Bolig stated that she didn't know where the money would be taken from to fund the agency.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator