

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
JANUARY 25, 2007
- MEETING MINUTES-**

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig
Mr. Robert Brinton
Mr. Charles Brown
Dr. Jerry Davis
Mr. Raymond Jones (Excused)
Mr. William McDaniel
Ms. Linda Starr

Ms. Rhonda Oliver
Ms. Amy Ricks (Excused)

STAFF

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Starr served as Chair for this meeting and welcomed those attending.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS PRESENTATION

Elaine Whitmanbonner of the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Family Connections (FC) Office gave a presentation to the Board. FC is a prevention unit whose main goal is to keep children out of the DES and Child Protection Services foster care system. FC operates in Pima County and Maricopa County. Some units focus on the needs of families in which there is domestic violence.

The Mesa unit focuses on working with relative placements such as a grandparent or grandparents, uncles, aunts, and often older siblings who have taken on the task of raising a relative child. FC assists those families in identifying and acquiring needed resources, which include but are not limited to support groups, Food Stamps, insurance (AHCCCS), guardianship, power of attorney, behavioral health services, child-only cash assistance (\$204 for the first child, prorated for additional children). If a family needs guardianship, Family Connections will assist with the paperwork and working with the court.

Family Connections has an Advisory Council, which is made up of different entities from the community—service entities, faith-based groups, and the City of Mesa. In putting this Advisory Council together they tried to get a cross-section of the community represented.

Funding sources are limited; however, there are certain things that they can do. They can and do go out to other social agencies or faith-based organizations for assistance. They get many referrals from school counselors, teachers, social worker or nurse.

Family Connections is part of the Central Arizona Coalition for Relative Caregivers. They worked with the Diamondbacks for the first time this year to provide free tickets, gift bags for food, and transportation to relative caregivers and their 'kids' to see a ballgame on Grandparents' Day. The Diamondbacks are going to the league and request that this program be league wide, nationwide next year because of the increasing numbers of relatives who are raising their non-biological children.

Upon completion of the presentation, Ms. Whitmanbonner answered questions from the Board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

ABC PROGRAM

Ms. Wilson updated the Board on the ABC Donation program. December donations were up from November. Staff is concentrating on marketing the program to as many groups as they can. Articles on the program are being included in "Across the Back Fence", which is sent to HOA groups registered with the City.

REVIEW OF HSAB BY-LAWS ORDINANCE

The Board reviewed the draft ordinance and recommended it be taken to the City attorney for review. Further discussion regarding the by-laws was tabled until the ordinance review is completed.

DISCUSS ESG FUNDING

At the February meeting, the Board will vote on the ESG funding recommendations. At this time, staff is anticipating level funding.

REVIEW TENTATIVE SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

An updated site visit schedule was distributed. Ms Wilson described a typical visit and said that she will email guidelines to the Board. The Board was reminded to contact their team members to let them know if they cannot make one of their scheduled visits. Also, if there is an agency that they would like to visit and they are not assigned for that visit, they should feel free to attend.

STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Section 8 waiting is closing at 11AM on January 30. Once an application is received, the requestor is put on a waiting list, and it can take anywhere from six months to two years to get a voucher.
- ✓ The homeless street count is taking place on January 30. Mesa Police will conduct the count about 8:30AM.
- ✓ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day is February 1, and the VITA sites will open on February 3. Information is available on the City's website.
- ✓ The City's website has a new look. The Board was encouraged to check it out and let staff know if they find it easier to use than previously.

ADJOURN

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist-SA