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**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1st STREET, UPPER LEVEL
June 28, 2007
- MEETING MINUTES-**

MEMBERS

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

Vacant

STAFF

Ms. Lisa Wilson
Mr. Scott Clapp
Ms. Anita Mapes
Ms. Patricia Sorenson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond Jones began the meeting at 5:32 PM and welcomed those in attendance. The members of the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and staff stated their names for the record.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF MAY 32, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May 3, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously with changes.

2007/2008 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET UPDATE

Lisa Wilson gave an update to the 2007-08 Human Services (HS) budget. There was an increase of \$23,000 to the HS budget. Each of the approved agencies received an approximate 2.5 percent increase for 2007-08. City Council did not agree with the Board's recommendation of removing 10 percent of the funding from A New Leaf's homeless programs, La Mesita and Autumn House and inserting the amount (of \$9,586) into the Teen Lifeline suicide hotline and CARE Partnership's Wellness programs. Mike Hughes, the Executive Director for A New Leaf addressed the Council regarding the Board's recommendation and apologized for not getting follow up information to the Board, which subsequently resulted in the recommended decrease.

The utilities for the East Valley Senior Services (EVSS) downtown facilities was removed from the HS budget and transferred to the Neighborhood Services Administration budget for 2007-08. Patricia Sorenson, the Acting Housing & Revitalization Director stated that the line item was removed from the HS budget because it did not fit the Community Safety Support Model. The lease is being revised to reflect the changes, which expires on June 30, 2007.

Linda Starr asked why the Council voted to raise the HS allocation by 3 percent and yet not fund new programs. Ms. Sorenson stated that the Council was not willing to add new programs to what has been funded in the past but was willing to increase previous program funding.

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Mary Bolig made additional comments regarding the Council's decision to not fund new programs. Ms. Bolig suggested that the Council make that determination before the application process starts so that the nonprofit agencies don't waste their time applying for funds that they would not receive. The HSAB members spend much of their time reviewing proposals and attending site visits for each agency. Education of the Council would be a priority for next year. Ms. Wilson stated that the City of Mesa has an open Request For Proposal process, which means that any qualified agency could apply for funding. Ms. Oliver questioned the function and usefulness of the HSAB. Volunteers have committed their time to the Board are discouraged when the City Council goes against their recommendations. Members feel that their input holds no value with the City Council.

Budget cuts have contributed to lack of funding to some programs (that were previously funded). Additionally, donations are down to the ABC: A Better Community Donation program. Next year, there may be cuts to agencies that receive ABC funding. Staff is trying to find creative ways to market the program. Online banking has effected the contributions. If utility customers were to make payments through the City's website, they would have the ability to make donations.

Mr. Jones suggested having a Council member attend the HSAB meetings. Ms. Wilson said that she would invite a Council representative to attend the retreat in September.

HUMAN SERVICES BYLAWS/ORDINANCE UPDATE

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the bylaws and approved the Board's recommended changes. The ordinance will have to be approved by City Council at a future meeting. Staff has drafted a Council Report to be forwarded to the Council.

STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of the Board and staff discussed dates for the annual retreat. Ms. Oliver suggested having the retreat during a regular meeting with an extended meeting time. Ms. Wilson suggested starting the meeting earlier. The retreat will be held on September 27, at 3:00 PM.

- The vacancy has been filled. John Gutierrez will replace Amy Ricks' position on the Board. Mr. Gutierrez is a graduate of the 2007 Mesa Leadership Training & Development Class.
- The Mesa Water Hydration Program started on June 18, 2007. Members of the community can go to several locations in Mesa to donate water for the homeless. The Office of Human Services has partnered with Paz de Cristo, United Food Bank, Word of Grace church and the Fire Department. The United Food Bank had 28,800 bottles of water shipped from Pennsylvania that is being distributed to agencies providing services to the homeless throughout the East Valley and Phoenix. Kevin Christopher, A Public Information Officer for Mesa developed a news release that was picked up by Channel 3, 5 and KTAR, which publicized the need for the donations. On July 14, the Salvation Army in Phoenix will conduct a regional collection of water and accept monetary donations.
- St. Vincent's de Paul has tour dates for their Phoenix location and the HSAB was invited to attend. The tour includes program information and ends with lunch. Dates will be sent out and interested Board members can sign up.
- Scott Clapp will be taking the place of Jane Albin as the Management Assistant helping the Board.
- Interviews are being held to fill the Housing & Revitalization Director position. Kari Kent was named Deputy City Manager but will continue to be the Acting Neighborhood Services Director until a replacement is made.

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Ms. Bolig asked about the Escobedo apartments and whether the City is selling the property. Council gave staff direction on June 7, 2007 to sell the property. The City of Mesa has offered a moving allowance. The Section 8 waiting list has been reopened and families currently on the waiting list will be moved to the top of the list. The vouchers should be available to those tenants within a year.

ADJOURN

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist-SA