

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
CITY OF MESA
MESA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
October 28, 2004
REVISED
-MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig
Mr. Jon Burroughs
Mr. Robert Hisserich
Mr. LaShawn D. Jenkins
Mr. Raymond Jones
Ms. Judy Kent

Mr. Ken Salas
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

Ms. Nichole Ayoola
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris
Ms. Lisa Wilson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond Jones welcomed everyone.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS*

There were no citizen's comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2004 & SEPTEMBER 24, 2004 MEETING

The minutes were approved unanimously.

2004/2005 BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations were given for the Housing & Human Services Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair positions. Raymond Jones was nominated for Chair and Bob Hisserich for Vice Chair. Both accepted their nominations. Board members voted unanimously to appoint Raymond Jones as Chair and Bob Hisserich as Vice Chair of the Housing & Human Services Advisory Board for 04/05.

DISCUSSION OF EXTENDING BOARD MEETING TIME

Staff and members of the Board discussed extending the regular meeting time from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. At this time the meetings are scheduled to end at 7:00 pm. Bob Hisserich made a motion to extend the meeting to 7:30 pm. LaShawn Jenkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously to extend the meeting time from 7:00 pm to 7:30 p.m. The H&HSAB will now meet 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

MONTHLY HOUSING DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Ruth Anne Norris gave an overview of the monthly housing report. Housing Services received 563 new requests for housing assistance, two new families were leased up for Section 8 and nine tenants were terminated from the program. The waiting list dropped significantly from 44 to 17.

Mr. Burroughs asked about the cause of the nine terminations. Ms. Norris explained that there are various causes for terminations. The causes vary from violations, convictions with criminal activity to clients being able to afford a better place to live. She stated that she would provide information in the future regarding terminations.

Mr. Hisserich asked who is responsible for performing the rehabilitations, how the units are constructed and whether or not the units meet City and Fire codes. Ms. Norris explains that the units are safe and meet code standards at this time but if they were reconstructed the new codes would be enforced and the costs could be great. The Star Dust Foundation hired an architect to complete a study regarding costs, which may be available in December or January. Ms. Norris described the alternatives for the units at Escobedo. This includes minimal repairs, remodel or demolition and rebuilding. It was agreed to hold the November 18, 2004 H&HSAB meeting at Housing Services so members could tour the facility.

Linda Starr asked for comments from Ms. Norris regarding the article in the Tribune referring to the federal housing cuts. Ms. Norris stated that federal cuts are being made in the Section 8 Program. The cuts could possibly affect 20-60 families. The other cut is to administration fees, which is about a 9.6%. In the Housing Services division there are vacant positions that will remain vacant due to the funding shortfall. Central funds are very limited by HUD regulations. Housing will have to enforce the rules per funds available.

Mr. Burroughs is interested in looking into the condition of the units after tenants have moved out and the types of repairs that are required turn over the unit to a new family. Ms. Norris states that two full-time staff are responsible for maintaining 101 units and office facilities. Ms. Norris will look into the turnover numbers and provide data.

MESA UNITED WAY PRESENTATION

Darlene Duncan of Mesa United Way (MUW) gave a presentation to Board members on the Community Investment Process. The main focus of the process is the Loaned Executives. Companies donate an employee to MUM for five months with the main goal of working on the MUW campaign. The areas in which people can donate go into the Community Care Fund and donations can be made to the organizations outside of the member agencies. These are considered designated funds.

People have a network of needs such as counseling, housing, tutoring, shelter services, job skill training, rent assistance and domestic violence. MUW decided to focus on those specific needs. Partnering with the City of Mesa will ensure the needs are met.

There are about 96 investment managers that volunteer. They participate in categories of their own interest. There are eight focus areas in which the volunteer can choose based on their availability. The commitment is five hours a month and meet from two to three times a month. The training begins January 17 though mid May (dates are not official). Subcommittees will meet to review preliminary proposals and make recommendations.

Ms. Ayoola will send the final proposal results so that Board members can be invited to attend the sight visits, which is a 30-minute tour, a 30-minute presentation and a 30minute Q&A and discussion with panel members.

Ms. Duncan discussed the five focus areas of the MUW. They are Growing Strong Children, Caring For the Elderly, Unforeseen Hardships, Special Needs and Disabilities and Building Better Neighborhoods. MUW's goal is about supporting a core safety network of services. People have a network of needs and just one incident can change someone life. People will require more than one service. A needs assessment was done with other organizations in the community. The decision was made to focus on some major areas and make an impact in those areas. With the combined application process with the City of Mesa, we will be able to meet the gaps in funding. Making the decisions jointly will be an important part of the allocation process and meeting the community's needs.

Ms. Starr asked how many request for funding does the MUW receive. Ms. Duncan stated that they fund 35 agencies, which are funded every year. MUW did not have new funds to add other agencies to the list of funded agencies.

Mr. Jones asked about the needs assessment process. Ms. Ayoola states there are no plans to perform a new needs assessment process for another 3-5 years. The last assessment was completed two years ago.

Mr. Hisserich wanted to know information regarding staffing and if services extend to other communities of the organization. Ms. Duncan states the campaign is strictly in Mesa but funding extends outside of Mesa. There are 13 staff, 100 volunteers and six Loaned Executives.

2005/2006 HUMAN SERVICES ALLOCATION PROCESS TRAINING AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Ayoola gave a presentation to Board members, which spoke about the vision of the Board, the two funding streams and the areas of funding. The Office of Human Services has two funding streams, which are the ABC (A Better Community) and General Funds. Ms. Ayoola explained how the funding process works. She gave an update on the utility bill round up that allows Mesa residents to donate using their bill. On the October utility bill the message reads "Round Up for A Better Community", residents can call (480) 644-2221 to donate and the donations are tax-deductible contribution.

There is a third funding stream that involves federal funding called Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). ESG is allocated by Community Revitalization and administered by the Office of Human Services. The federal funds for homeless individuals are down \$42.00 and will affect Prehab (La Mesita, Autumn House), East Valley Men's Center and Prehab.

Human Services focuses on five funding areas, which are transitional services, crisis services, prevention/early intervention, long-term support and system support.

An information meeting will be held on November 9, 2004 at the Mesa Main Library to discuss the application process for those agencies interested in applying for funding. The Board will have the proposals before New Year's to review. Sight visits will be January through April. Each month the Board will discuss a different funding area.

ESG recommendations will be made in February. The final results will be given to City Council for their approval. The assumed level of funding is \$1,085,946. The exact budget will not be known until June. ABC fund balance is at \$184,949 and averages approximately \$12,000 per month. It has been down approximately \$1,000 each month.

Ms. Ayoola spoke of the Multi-year funding cycle, which is a proposed two-year funding cycle that would roll into the City's second year budget. The Board will need to think about programs that can provide necessary services to the community for two years. Ms. Ayoola and Ms. Wilson will provide information about agencies that might not be qualified for funding.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Wilson announced:

- EITC kickoff on Nov. 10th for VITA volunteers
- Updates about recruitment that is currently taking place for more VITA volunteers
- Channel 11 will complete a public service announcement for VITA

Ms. Ayoola will be at an Arizona Community Action Association director's meeting in Globe on Nov. 4-5. Sandra Mendez will administer a "Funding Formula that might decrease the funding. Ms. Ayoola will share the formula and all other information in the upcoming November meeting.

ADJOURN

Since there no were no further items to discuss Raymond Jones motioned to adjourn and Judy Kent seconded his motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator