

REVISED
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
APRIL 27, 2006
- MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig (excused)
Mr. Robert Brinton
Mr. William Egan
Mr. Robert Hisserich
Mr. Raymond Jones
Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond Jones, Chair of the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB), called the meeting to order all members and staff present were introduced.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mike Boyd, President of the Board of Directors of Mesa Community Action Network:

Mr. Boyd told the Board what the consequences to his agency would be if the proposed budget cuts were approved. He stated that the current programs do not fund themselves, and by taking away administrative dollars that the City of Mesa currently provides will not allow them to move around funds to help these programs keep going. Mr. Boyd related the affects the budget cuts will have on staff and the services they provide. He asked the Board, as well as Mayor and Council, to consider the basic necessities and services that MesaCAN provides to the community. These may be in jeopardy if their funding is reduced. Mr. Boyd also related that, through the Earned Income Tax Credit Program, they help clients obtain federal and state refunds. Many of these dollars are returned to the City by these residents through sales tax. He asked the Board again to give more thought to the consequences of the possible closing of the East Valley Men's Center, and all the clients that are served.

Janice Parker, Executive Director of Save the Family:

Ms. Parker said that even though Save the Family is not considered an emergency shelter, they take many referrals from the domestic violence shelters and other emergency shelters in Mesa. The clients they assist are domestic violence victims who will recycle back on the streets and into emergency shelters if their program goes away. Save the Family is a long-term program that helps prevent families from falling into homelessness, and currently assists 29 families from the City of Mesa. Losing funding will translate into having about 29 single mothers and close to 100 children on the street. Ms. Parker asked the Board to keep in mind that public safety issues will also be affected by the lack of funding to this program.

Randy Gray, President of the MARC Center:

Mr. Gray acknowledged the funding provided by the City of Mesa to his agency for the past 24 years. He expressed a concern that this year conditional priority funding recommendations are being made. He asked the Board to recommend funding that is necessary for the community and the needs of its citizens, rather than being concerned with what they think the Council would adopt. Mr. Gray stated that as a citizen of Mesa, he would like to see the Board recommend full funding of the Marc Center and take a proactive approach. He urged the Board to not tie property taxes or contingencies to their funding recommendations, but rather consider what is needed for the quality of life of the community.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March 23, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

2006/2007 HUMAN SERVICES/ABC/ESG PROPOSAL REVIEWS& DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the site visits and their recommendations for funding of the following agencies:

- Boys and Girls Club – Recommend funding for the teen center; no funding recommendation for the scholarship/youth summer camp
- MesaCAN-EVMC – Recommend funding
- Salvation Army – Do not recommend funding
- PREHAB-LaMesita, Autumn House – Recommend funding; CAFV – Do not recommend funding
- CARE Partnership-Wellness – Do not recommend funding
- Jewish Family & Children’s Services – Do not recommend funding
- YMCA-NYPUM, 1st Offenders – Agrees with staff recommendation
- United Food Bank – Recommend funding
- MARC Center – Recommend funding and moving priority up
- Community Bridges-Partnership – Recommend funding
- Save the Family – Recommend funding and moving case management to priority 1
- Serrine Adult Day Care Center – Agrees with staff recommendation

The Board suggested that tracking particular information, e.g. how many people are served and the impact the agency’s services have on the community, would be beneficial in the recommendations for funding. There was discussion on the categories shown on the spreadsheet—priority 1, 2, and 3. It was explained that priority 1 would provide funding if neither the sales tax nor property tax passed. Priority 2 would provide the funding amount if the sales tax passes, and priority 3 would provide level funding if both the sales tax and property tax passes. Also, in answer to a question regarding how funding recommendations will work with these priorities, Ms. Kelly gave the background on the Community Safety Support Investment Model and the relationship to funding recommendations. She also explained the correlation of the ABC program and the general funds to the total funding of Human Services. Ms. Kelly also reminded the Board that City Council could decide to make changes to funding to any of the agencies by taking away from some and giving more to others.

The Board questioned the change in the five traditional categories from what they were used to seeing. It was explained that the current categories came into being in order to comply with the Community Safety Support Model. The Board expressed a preference with keeping the five categories with which they are familiar. Ms. Wilson stated that she would revise the funding spreadsheet to reflect the five areas of Human Services funding.

STAFF/BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVAL OF HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Board voted unanimously to postpone funding recommendations until after the May election.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Wilson related to the Board the results of a residence survey completed by the Mesa Police Department. Human Services issues and their importance to the community were included in the questions. The results indicated the majority of those surveyed felt that domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, alcohol and drug abuse programs, programs for children and youth, service for seniors, programs for families and emergency assistance for people in poverty were very important or somewhat important.

ADJOURN

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist