

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
57 EAST 1ST STREET, LOWER LEVEL
MAY 17, 2006
- MINUTES-

MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Bolig (present by conference call)
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.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dan Taylor—Executive Director of Mesa Senior Services:

Mr. Taylor related the funding makeup of the Retired Seniors Volunteer (RSVP) Program, and that Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Tempe and Boeing contribute. He explained that Mesa Senior Services receives a match of federal funding. Without the City of Mesa dollars, the entire program is in jeopardy. There are over 650 volunteers in the program, and half of them reside in the Mesa area. Mr. Taylor requested the Board consider this particular program in their deliberations. He also requested the Board consider funding the utility program. He acknowledged the tough decisions the Board members have to make, but wanted to ensure they understood the part that the City of Mesa plays in the RSVP Program.

Randy Gray—President and CEO of the MARC Center of Mesa:

Mr. Gray stated that the MARC Center brings over \$20 million into the Mesa community each year and serves the citizens of Mesa that have disabilities and behavioral health challenges. The requested \$17,500 assists people to become economically self-sufficient. Mr. Gray said that for every dollar that the City invests the MARC Center is able to assist people to become gainfully employed and taxpayers. Last year they placed 178 clients with competitive employers. Within two years of being employed, the total cost of rehabilitation is returned. This economic efficiency is really important. Mr. Gray spoke to the matter of safety and stated that some of those served with the \$17,500 are behaviorally challenged, and have been picked up on the streets by the police. These situations certainly fall in the perimeter of safety. He requested that the Board take this into consideration and elevate their request to a higher priority.

Susan Long—Sr. Program Director Mesa YMCA:

Ms. Long thanked the Board for considering their programming requests. She realizes how difficult prevention is to measure, but the Nation Youth Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM) program is very beneficial and has aided in changing the lives of some of the kids. She also stated that the First Offender Program has been around for 30 years, and does a wonderful job for kids in the community. Ms. Long thanked the Board again for their consideration of these two programs.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the April 27, 2006 meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

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

The Board reviewed the FY 06/07 funding requests from each agency. In making their recommendations, they looked at the requested funding, previous year funding, the program description and benefits to the community. They also evaluated the reduced general fund budget as well as the ABC (A Better Community) donation dollars into consideration. During this process, the Board had questions regarding the three Mesa Community Action Network (MesaCAN) requests and the relationship of one to the other. Pat Gilbert, Executive Director of MesaCAN, was invited up to answer those questions. Their final recommendations were \$105,115 over the total amount of the general funds and the ABC funds.

The Board also discussed the need to find a way to increase funding for these programs. They discussed the possibility of restructuring ABC utility bill donations program and a way to ensure that, if another donation structure is set up, these funds would go into an 'enterprise fund' strictly earmarked for human services and not the general fund. This item will be an agenda item at a future Board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Kelly related to the Board the scheduled budget presentations by the Neighborhood Services Department on May 23, and the Human Services presentation on May 25, at approximately 8:45AM in the Lower Level Council Chambers. The hearings are open to the public and members of the Board were encouraged to attend.

ADJOURN

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R. Wilson, Human Services Specialist