

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF MESA  
MESA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
57 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, LOWER LEVEL  
April 22, 2004  
**REVISED**  
**-MINUTES-**

MEMBERS

Ms. Susan Klecka, Chair  
Dr. Carlos Vallejo, Vice Chair  
Ms. Mary Bolig  
Ms. Teresa Cotton  
Mr. Raymond Jones  
Ms. Judy Kent  
Ms. Kim Reynolds  
Mr. Ken Salas (Excused)

Ms. Linda Starr

STAFF

Nichole Ayoola  
Ms. Ruth Anne Norris

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Klecka welcomed those in attendance and Board members and staff was introduced.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Bryan Campbell of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the East Valley addressed the Board regarding staff funding recommendations for 04/05, which does not recommend funding the agency's request for \$20,000. The funds would benefit students at Lowell Elementary School in Mesa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2004 MEETING

The March 25, 2004 minutes were unanimously approved with the change to reflect Kim Reynolds as present on that date.

04/05 HUMAN SERVICES ALLOCATION SPREADSHEET

Nichole Ayoola explained the allocation process and use of funds to members of the H&HSAB. ABC: A Better Community funds would be used to leverage the lack of general revenue funds in 03/04 so that allocations remain level and hold harmless those agencies that provide services within the Mesa continuum. Staff made a level recommendation based on last year's allocations of \$1,085,946.

Ms. Ayoola explained that St. Vincent's De Paul and Change Point did not request funding this year. Change Point has dissolved as an organization and their services and existing contract only were taken over by Common Good Ministry, which has been around for about three years was co-located at Change Point's facility in Gilbert. Ms. Ayoola explained that St. Vincent De Paul did not expend all of their funding so did not apply for additional funds this year. They are funded out of ABC so those dollars would be available for next year's programs. A Board member asked about the services provided at the Center Against Family Violence. PREHAB works with the City's Center Against Family Violence that provides crisis counseling for victims of domestic violence. Similar to St. Vincent De Paul, they had money from 02/03 to continue

funding the programming during FY 03/04. The \$15,000 that was recommended for that program was cancelled out by the \$15,000 not applied for by Change point.

The Board started by discussing the Prevention/Early Intervention category. Mary Bolig was impressed with the tutoring program that the Salvation Army provided at Eisenhower Elementary School. The program used Arizona State University students as tutors. She also felt the mentoring of Big Brothers and Big Sisters at Lowell Elementary should be funded. Ms. Ayoola stated that she did not recommend these agencies for funding because they are new programs, the services are already being provided within Mesa and funds would be used for basic services because of budget constraints. The Salvation Army also did not have any leverage funding.

Ms. Bolig discussed the Boys and Girls Club proposal. They proposed funding scholarships for 350 children. Almost \$30,000 would go toward administrative costs and only \$15,000 towards scholarships.

Ms. Klecka asked for a motion to approve staff recommendations for Prevention/Early Intervention. Judy Kent made the motion and Mr. Jones seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of four to three.

After some discussion Ms. Klecka asked for a motion to approve staff recommendations for Crisis Services. Mr. Jones made the motion to approve as stated and Linda Starr seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transitional Services were reviewed. Community Services of Arizona was discussed. Ms. Starr stated that she regrets not being able to fund this program. Again, this was a new program and staff recommends not funding it but advised the Board that they could recommend that the program be funded.

Lutheran Social Ministries "Circle of Friends" and Shanti Group was discussed. Circle of Friends surrounds families and individuals with the support that they need. Shanti Group, which provides services to clients with AIDS/HIV, was not recommended for funding because it is a new program and it is not clear how many of their clients originated from Mesa. This was also an issue last year and was not resolved with the new proposal.

Ms. Klecka entertained a motion to approve staff recommendations for transitional services. Ms. Kent made the motion and Mr. Jones seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

System Support/Long Term Support recommendations were reviewed and discussed. Ms. Ayoola indicated that Arizona Action for Foster Children was not recommended for funding because the funds would be used for outreach materials, an individual to perform community outreach and to provide furniture. Again, the funds are for programs providing basic services.

Ms. Cotton suggested giving the United Food Bank the \$30,000 recommended by staff and the additional \$5,000 that was part of the original request. Ms. Ayoola stated that the Board could recommend any additional amount although it may not be available this year. United Food Bank has noticed an increase in the amount of food needed and this is the first time they have asked for an increase in several years.

Ms. Cotton motioned to pull United Food Bank from the group of applications to be considered separately and to vote on the remaining system/long term support block. Ms. Starr seconded.

On a vote of four to three the motion was approved to accept staff recommendations on system/long term support. Ms. Cotton made another motion to approve the recommendation of \$30,000 for the United Food Bank and another \$5,000 if additional funds are available. Ms. Starr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

With the recommendations completed, the Board further discussed the new allocation process and the member's reactions to the process. Ms. Ayoola stated that there would be more changes evolving from group discussions with the Mesa United Way and other East Valley cities. Collectively, they are discussing the possibility of a uniform application, funding cycle and monitoring process for all agencies and cities to use. There would be more discussion on the topic as a separate future agenda item.

#### MONTHLY HOUSING REPORT

Ruth Anne Norris discussed the Housing Report. The Section 8 waiting list opened in April on each Thursday of the month. As of April 22, there were 964 applicants. Housing had planned to close the list after obtaining 1,000 applicants but would continue accepting applications through the month of April. A public notice would be made to inform the public when the list would close.

There was an error under section 3, Section 8 Customer Service/Quality Control. The report lists all zeros because the supervisor had to assume extra caseloads due to the resignation of a staff member.

Leasing is slow, which is of some concern but this could possibly be due to credit report ratings of applicants. Some may have questionable credit that won't allow them to be approved for a lease. Housing is trying to be more flexible with these types of situations. For April there were four move-ins and six more scheduled between now and July.

Mr. Jones asked about accounts receivable under section 4, Escobedo Housing regarding the reported delinquent amounts. The year-to-date is \$4,015 and for March its \$2,802. He wanted to know why it was so high for the month of March. Ms. Norris stated that she'd check to see if it could be an error and share that information with the Board.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Report, completed quarterly by Donna Hunter and an article published by the Tribune and written by Jason Emerson titled "Mesa Eyes Rent Hike At Complex" was distributed. The article discusses the rent increase at Escobedo supported by the H&HSAB and the City Council. The increase goes to the full Council in May as part of the budget hearings.

#### ABC: A BETTER COMMUNITY BROCHURE

Ms. Ayoola announced that the ABC brochure was completed and would soon be printed.

#### FOLLOW-UP TO THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD

The Housing Governing Board held its first meeting on April 8, 2004. Ms. Norris provided a draft copy of the minutes for the Board to read. The Council is more aware of housing issues and indicated a desire to be more involved in housing next year. Next year Housing Services will create a Five-Year Plan that will be turned in to HUD (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development). They will be looking for the input of the H&HSAB, the Housing Governing Board and the community to complete the plan.

40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION-POVERTY RALLY

Ms. Ayoola announced that a statewide conference sponsored by the Arizona Community Action Agency is planned for May 12, 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. Board members were urged to attend and contact her for more information.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Ayoola announced that Susan Klecka, Chair of the H&HSAB would be leaving the Board after six years of service. Teresa Cotton has given three years of service and has chosen not to extend her tenure on the Board but offered to stay until November if a replacement could not be found right away. Dr. Carlos Vallejo is undecided at this time. Also, the Human Services Specialist position is open and hopefully will be filled soon.

Ms. Cotton asked that the City Attorney review the open meeting laws with the Board. Ms. Ayoola stated this could be done once the new Board members are selected and in place.

ADJOURN

Ms. Klecka asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jones made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Kent seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nichole V. Ayoola, Human Services Coordinator

lw/NA