

MINUTES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Two Civic Center Plaza – 8th Floor
Community Development Conference Room**

Thursday, February 7, 2008

There being a quorum, Jim Welshimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Welshimer
Billie Brown
Rocio Hinojosa
Annette Stone
Miguel Grijalva
Jessie Sustaita
Ana Duenez
John Doering

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

William Lilly, CD Director
Anthony Shaar, CD Deputy Director
Thomas Serrano, Senior Grant Planner
Judy Sarabia, Senior Grant Planner
Judy Emmons, Grant Planner
Michele Ellington, Grant Planner
Connie Jimenez, Grant Planner

AGENDA

1. **Discussion and Action on Steering Committee Absences – Jim Welshimer, Chairperson**

Not applicable.

2. **Approval of the Steering Committee Minutes of January 17, 2008 – Jim Welshimer, Chairperson**

Motion made by Billie Brown and seconded by Ana Duenez to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2008. Motion passes unanimously.

3. **Presentations by the Chairperson and Agency Representatives for the Children and Youth Services Collaborative, and Review by the Steering Committee of the Following 34th Year (2008-2009) Children and Youth Services Collaborative Proposals:**

Jim Welshimer introduces new Steering Committee member Jessie Sustaita. He reports that CDBG funding was cut approximately 3.5 percent for the 34th year funding cycle. Michele Ellington provides handouts to Steering Committee members with updated

budgetary information for all Public Services Collaboratives. Jim Welshimer states that the Chairman of the Children and Youth Collaborative will review the process used by the Collaborative to arrive at a final budget recommendation. He requests that Michele Ellington brief the Steering Committee on the status of projects for last year and the current year, if applicable, before each agency's presentation. He states that each agency (project) will be allowed 2-3 minutes to make an oral presentation, and that Committee members will then have the opportunity to ask questions following each presentation.

Gerry Porter, Grants Committee Chairwoman of the Assistance League and Vice-Chair for the Collaborative, states that she is addressing the Steering Committee on behalf of the Collaborative due to the Chair's recent resignation. She reviews the Collaborative process that was followed in arriving at a consensus budget recommendation in the amount of \$307,721 concerning the following projects, three (D, K and L) of which were not recommended for funding:

- A. Assistance League of El Paso (Operation School Bell)**
- B. AVANCE Inc. – (AVANCE Family Literacy Program)**
- C. CASA of El Paso, Inc. (Court Appointed Special Advocates)**
- D. Child Crisis Center of El Paso (No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents)**
- E. El Paso Parks and Recreation Department (Neighborhood Youth Outreach)**
- F. El Paso Parks and Recreation Department (Sun Country Recreation Program)**
- G. El Paso Human Services, Inc. ("Youth Leadership Skills" Project)**
- H. Opportunity Center for the Homeless (Crisis Intervention Project)**
- I. Project Vida (Youth Recreation and Gang Prevention)**
- J. Project Vida (School Age Child Care in the Second Ward – Latch Key Centers)**
- K. Teens in Action for a Healthy Community, Inc. (ENGLISH RELOADED!)**
- L. West Texas Food Bank (El Paso Kids Café Program)**

Prior to a brief presentation made to the committee by representatives of each project, except Child Crisis Center of El Paso that does not have a representative present, Michele Ellington reports on the status of each project for the previous and current years, when applicable. The representatives respond to committee members' questions about their proposals and projects.

4. Citizen Comments on Item #3

John Martin, Director of Business Operations for the Salvation Army, states that his agency applied under the Children and Youth Collaborative, but was disqualified very early in the process and that he is commenting as a citizen. He is of the opinion that the current application process does not lend itself to merit-based evaluation because it does not award points and involve the Steering Committee earlier in the process. He said that using such a scoring system would allow agencies that score, for example, 70% or higher to proceed through the collaborative process, and those scoring lower to be dropped. He stated that such a process would more effectively allow newer agencies to compete with older agencies that average 12 years in the collaborative process. He states that tenure and alliances encourage bias. He further states that no new agencies, and only one new project, were recommended for funding during the current collaborative process. Finally, he suggests that the City remove its own projects out of the funding process, as do other cities, so as not to compete with non-profit agencies for funding because the City is both the primary recipient of HUD funds, and the subrecipient for its own projects.

William Lilly comments on next year's application process. He specifically notes that discussion is underway to possibly allow agencies submitting applications well in advance of the due date to correct application deficiencies by the due date.

Michele Ellington advises that she plans to form a Planning Committee in the summertime composed of Steering Committee members, Collaborative chairs, and Community Development staff to discuss the previous year's collaborative process and strategies for implementing the collaborative process in the upcoming year.

5. Discussion and Recommendation by the Steering Committee Regarding the Funding Distribution Under the Children and Youth Services Collaborative

Motion made by John Doering and seconded by Annette Stone to approve the funding distribution under the Children and Youth Services Collaborative as presented. Motion passes 6 to 2.

6. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 8:40 p.m.