

MINUTES

Community Development Steering Committee Meeting

Two Civic Center Plaza
8th Floor – Community Development Conference Room
Tuesday, February 12, 2008

There being a quorum, Jim Welshimer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present

John Doering
Ana Dueñez
Billie Brown
Annette Stone
Jessie Sustaita
Jim Welshimer

Members Absent

Rocio Hinojosa
Miguel Grijalva

Staff Present

Bill Lilly, Director
Anthony Shaar, Deputy Director
Tom Serrano, Senior Grant Planner
Judy Sarabia, Senior Grant Planner
Michele Ellington, Grant Planner
Connie Jimenez, Grant Planner
Isela Robison, Empowerment Zone Coordinator
Susie Moralez, Recording Secretary

Agenda

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

Motion made by Jessie Sustaita and seconded by John Doering to excuse absences. Motion passes unanimously.

2. **Presentations by the Chairperson and Agency Representatives for the Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative, and Review by**

**the Steering Committee of the Following 34th Year (2008-2009)
Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative Proposals:**

Jim Welshimer explains the importance of writing contracts properly by being detail-specific and ensuring that budgets balance. He also states that the committee has the discretion of approving the recommended budget, or to make changes to it and approve a revised version. He further states that Michele Ellington will report on the status of the project's previous and current contracts, if applicable, and then each program representative will give a 2-3 minute presentation, followed by questions from the committee.

Bea Vargas, Director of El Papalote Inclusive Child Development Center and Chair of the Economic Opportunity Services Collaborative, reviews the Collaborative process that was followed in arriving at a consensus budget recommendation in the amount of \$191,972 concerning the following projects, two (A and C) of which were not recommended for funding:

- A. Center Against Family Violence (Survivors @ Work)**
- B. El Paso Children's Day Care Association (Early Childhood Development Project)**
- C. El Paso Human Services, Inc. (My Independence Through Employment [MITE])**
- D. El Paso Rehabilitation Center (El Papalote Inclusive Child Development Center)**
- E. Houchen Community Center (Childcare Program)**
- F. Project ARRIBA (Project ARRIBA)**
- G. Project Vida (Early Childhood Development Project)**
- H. Rescue Mission of El Paso, Inc. (Job Placement and Coaching Program)**
- I. YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region (Economic Opportunities Through Child Care for Low-Income Families)**

Michele Ellington reports on the status of existing contracts for the previous and current year prior to a brief presentation by representatives of each project, except Center Against Family Violence and El Paso Human Services because representatives from those two projects are not present. The representatives respond to committee members' questions about their proposals and projects.

Michele Ellington describes the local initiative match-funding process.

3. **Citizen Comments on Item #2**

None.

4. **Discussion and Recommendation by the Steering Committee Regarding the Funding Distribution Under the Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative**

Annette Stone makes a Motion to approve the budget as presented, and John Doering seconds the Motion. Ana Duenez states that she does not support Project Vida's project, and Billie Brown states that she has reservations about Project ARRIBA's project. The Motion is rescinded by Annette Stone and the second is rescinded by John Doering to allow for further discussion. After brief discussion, it is agreed that Project Vida's audit, submitted with the funding application, will be made available to Ana Duenez and John Doering at their request to review it; no other committee members are interested in doing so. Project ARRIBA's representative, Roman Ortiz, responds to additional questions posed by Billie Brown regarding the project. Jessie Sustaita then Motions to approve the funding distribution under the Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative as presented, and the Motion passes 5 to 1, with Ana Duenez voting Nay.

5. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.