

MINUTES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Two Civic Center Plaza 8th Floor
Community Development Conference Room

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Welshimer
Ana Duenez
Barbara Esparza
Billie Brown
Miguel Grijalva

MEMBERS ABSENT

Trini Acevedo

STAFF PRESENT

Nathalie Prise, CD Director
Anthony Shaar, Grants & Program Administrator
Eleanor Love, Senior Grants Planner
Tom Serrano, Senior Grants Planner
Michele Ellington, Grants Planner
Judy Sarabia, Grants Planner
Judy Emmons, Grants Planner
Yolie Cedillo, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action on Steering Committee Absences – Chairperson

Motion made by Barbara Esparza and seconded by Billie Brown to excuse Trini Acevedo from the meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

Jim Welshimer makes the following comments:

1. All committee members have met the guidelines on file with the City Clerk for membership on this committee and everyone has been approved by City Council.

2. All committee members have been provided a copy of each application in advance in the form of a booklet by the department.
3. The department has thoroughly reviewed each application as to content and qualified it according to the guidelines and presented to the committee their recommendation as to what should be funded and at what level.
4. Each collaborative has properly vetted each application and made their recommendations.
5. I ask each speaker to limit their presentation to matters not covered in the application. We are looking for additional information. Please be brief.
6. I ask each committee member to pose questions not contained in the application or presentation.
7. This committee is charged with reviewing the applications, conducting public hearings such as these and making a recommendation to City Council based on factual information.

2. Presentation by the Spokesperson for the Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative, and Review by the Steering Committee of the Following 32nd Year (2006-2007) Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative Proposals:

Ann Ogle, Administrator of Child Development for the YWCA: We only had 3 major issues that we addressed: Zero funding for Project Vida, Goodwill Industries was not funded and had not been funded previously and La Familia chose to withdraw their application in favor of funding the childcare program.

A. El Paso Children's Day Care Association (Early Childhood Development Project)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Early Childhood Development Project's past and current contract performance. She also explains how the Local Initiative works with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Malaysa Cox: We have been in business since 1914 and we are located at 510 S. Oregon. We currently care for 100 children from the ages of 2 weeks to 8 years old. We try to provide everything that they might not get in their homes most of which have an income of less than \$10,000.00 a year. Thank you for considering our application.

Jim Welshimer: Will you be able to expend all of your funds?

Malaysa Cox: The public was not aware that funds were available; but now the word is out and we will expend all of our funds.

B. El Paso Rehabilitation Center (El Papalote Day Care)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the El Papalote Day Care's past and current contract performance.

Bea Vargas: I am the Director of El Papalote Inclusive Child Development Center. What I mean by inclusive is that we serve children with or without special needs but our priority on our waiting list is always children with special needs. The only children that we cannot serve are those on life support. We will keep some of our funding back to serve the children during the summer vacation. If we would not expend all of our funds here, then our money would be used at other centers but only for children and their siblings with special needs.

C. Goodwill Industries of El Paso, Inc. (Goodwill Transitional Employment Program)

Michele had no report on this agency because it is a new application.

No representative present.

D. Houchen Community Center (Child Care Program)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Houchen Child Care Program's past and current contract performance.

Elsie Connor: We have been in business for 15 years and I believe the information in my application is very concise. I am open for questions from the committee.

Jim Welshimer: Will you be able to expend all of your funds?

Elsie Connor: Yes.

E. La Familia del Paso, Inc. (Mental Health Social Rehab/Job Development for Adults)

Michele had no report on this agency because it is a new project.

Lucia Dawson: We withdrew our application because we felt the monies could be used with existing projects so they could leverage more monies. We will continue our endeavor to fund our project through other sources.

F. Project Arriba (Project ARRIBA)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Projects Arriba's past and current contract performance.

Kathy Cox, CEO of Project Arriba: Our average income before the program for our clients is below \$7,100.00 a year with no benefits. After completing our program the income is over \$30,000.00 with benefits. In 2005 we served our largest group of 530 clients.

John Doering – You serve people citywide? Your proposal indicates you submit monthly ethnicity reports. If a person applies you always respond to their application?

Kathy Cox: Yes. Our program serves 92% Hispanics. We respond to all applications. Only 1 in every 7 people get into our program.

G. Project Vida (Early Childhood Development Program)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Early Childhood Development Project's past and current contract performance.

Gloria Marmolejo, Project Coordinator: We receive children from the newborn age to the age of 12 and we are a licensed daycare. Parents who enroll their children in our daycare must either be working at least 30 hours a week or be attending school. We offer the parenting component that means we meet twice a week for two hours with parents and we discuss child development. We also discuss discipline or how parents can play with their children. The parent can come and bond with their kids at our site, listen to music or read. There is always a teacher providing activities. We recently expanded and 34 more spaces for children are now available.

John Doering: What type of professional consulting services do you use?

Gloria Marmolejo: The consulting services is for our audit.

Bill Schlesinger: Our audit is expensive because of our certification as a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) This was the lowest bid we received.

H. PV Community Development Corporation (Equity Partnership Program)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Equity Partnership Program's past and current contract performance.

Blake Barrow, Collaborative Chair: Mr. Barrow introduces Bill Schlesinger and explains that his program was not funded due to economic cuts but adds that PVCDC has an application in under the Economic Services Collaborative.

Rosario Fernandez, Project Coordinator: We provide technical assistance to each client. We have processed more than 20 loans so the businesses can expand, buy inventory or add more staff. We refer small business owners to the Small Business Development Center, Accion Texas, the Empowerment Zone or private investors to obtain loans over \$3,000.00 because we can only offer loans between \$500.00 to \$3,000.00. In the last year we generated about 25 new jobs.

I. Rescue Mission of El Paso, Inc. (Job Placement and Coaching Program)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Job Placement and Coaching Program's past and current contract performance. Rescue Mission partnered with Project Vida to apply for funding.

Blake Barrow, Director for Rescue Mission: We run Rescue Furniture and we are committed to providing jobs for the homeless. Our rule is for the employee to be residing at the Rescue Mission or be living in a shelter in El Paso and you must be going through a rehabilitation program. We are requesting funding for the salary of a job search director and a job coach. The Rescue Furniture shop is doing well and we deliver furniture throughout the U.S. We are expecting our revenue to reach \$300,000.00.

John Doering: What does your unit cost include?

Blake Barrow: That includes the salary of the staff member, supplies to do the job such as gloves, protective glasses or work boots.

Miguel Grijalva: Are you using this program to recruit people into the furniture manufacturing and your air conditioning business? What is the success rate?

Blake Barrow: We have no new employees for the air conditioning business but as an incentive we guarantee employment if you finish the drug rehabilitation program. We place over 200 in jobs and that would be out of 350 people introduced into the job search program. We also provide financial guidance to the people enrolled in our program. They are given an allowance from their earnings and the rest is placed in the bank for them. We require them to have at least \$2,000.00 before leaving the program.

Jim Welshimer: Do you have one particular employer or company that hires your residents?

Blake Barrow: I have some employers that are more willing to give a homeless person a chance such as Jack in the Box.

John Doering: How do you care for the residents that have physical ailments?

Blake Barrow: I have a network of doctors that provide services as well as a pharmacy that sells medicines at cost.

J. YWCA El Paso del Norte Region (Economic Opportunities through Child Care for Low Income Families)

Michele Ellington informed the committee of the Economic Opportunities through Child Care for Low Income Families past and current contract performance.

Ann Ogle: The only thing I would like to add is that if these funds are not channeled through the Texas Workforce Commission for the local initiatives then the money will stay in Washington. The funds could very well end up in another city like Dallas or San Antonio. We have 17 facilities and 14 child development directors.

Miguel Grijalva: Which part of town has the highest percentage of low-income population?

Ann Ogle: We serve low-income families all over the city but it appears the lower valley has the highest amount of low-income families.

John Doering: Do you do staff developing with these CDBG funds? Do any of these people that use your services end up working at the YWCA?

Ann Ogle: The funds from CDBG are strictly for child-care services. Yes, I have many people who work for me in the child development division but they also go on to work at the YWCA.

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

Billie Brown makes a motion and is seconded by Barbara Esparza to accept the funding distribution under the Economic Opportunities Services Collaborative as a whole. John Doering opposes. Motion passes.

5. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 6:40 p.m.