

# FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM



## ADVISORY COUNCIL

---

### MINUTES

*April 16, 2008*

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Trini Acosta  
Nelda Antunez  
Celia Caldera  
Santiago Gonzalez  
Romana Grijalva  
Ruben Rodriguez  
Maritza Ruley  
Heinrich Uhrmacher  
Maria Luz Elena Villanueva

#### **ABSENT**

Frank Lopez  
Rocio Lozano

#### **STAFF**

Maria I. Valdivia  
Beatriz Rivera  
Rosario Ortiz  
Janet Gonzalez

Quorum met.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Santiago called meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed, no correction or discussions made, motion made by Heinrich Uhrmacher to approve, Ruben Rodriguez seconded, motion passed.

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Maria Valdivia welcomed everyone and introduced herself. The council members and staff also introduced themselves.

## **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Federal Application Renewal has been submitted.

There are currently 154 Foster Grandparents. Eleven volunteers are out sick and four of them are not returning due to illness.

There is no training planned for new volunteers. The last training was held in February where 18 volunteers joined the program. They have all been placed.

Some volunteers will be allowed to serve 6 hours daily. The hours slow down during the summer. This will allow the hours to be caught up.

The program also received a notice that there was going to be a cut in all projects. If this happens, the program will lose three FGs.

The new grandparents are required to have a state criminal background check. The existing FGs have gone through a National Search, which all have been clear. This is a sex offender search. We have not been able to get the proper authorization to conduct these state checks. DPS denied access to the program staff. The Police Department cannot conduct these checks, they have only been able to provide the program with local checks. They only provide the state for law enforcements, no volunteers. We are still currently looking into partnering up with another agency to have these backgrounds conducted.

The program with Goodwill that was located in Ysleta High School will not be part of the program the coming year. There were a lot of staff problems where there was no one there to supervise the FGs and to turn in the timesheets on time. The volunteers are not happy because there are days where the station closes completely for two to three days in a row.

The program wants to do fundraising for the program. There will be ads to be bought by agencies to place in the 2008 FGP Recognition Banquet which will be held on December 12, 2008. We are also hoping the Council Members help with attaining door prizes for the banquet. The program will provide letters to the members.

The program has conducted evaluations of the volunteers and the program. The main concern has been where the staff does not visit the sites on a regular basis.

Maria looked into the locations that were suggested to hold the banquet this year. Unfortunately the main issue was transportation for the volunteers. Another issue was some of the setup was as a buffet; this would definitely not work with our volunteers. The program will hold the banquet at the Wynham this year again.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

None to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

This year the volunteers will receive T-Shirts as gifts. They will be the FGP logo and will be unisex. Maria obtained three quotes: The Squeegee, Commercial Printing and Apparel Art. Apparel Art gave a lesser quote.

The FGs will sign a petition so that the program does not get any cuts at the In-Service training this month.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ruben Rodriguez to adjourn meeting Trini Acosta seconded, motion passed, meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

---

Reviewed by Maria I. Valdivia  
*Coordinator*

---

Approved by Santiago Gonzalez  
*Program Advisory Council President*

---

Date

---

Date