

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM



ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 18, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Acosta
Celia Caldera
Santiago Gonzalez
Ruben Rodriguez
Maritza Ruley
Maria Luz Elena Villanueva

ABSENT

Nelda Antunez
Armida Arredondo
Romana Grijalva
Rocio Lozano

STAFF

Maria I. Valdivia
Beatriz Rivera
Rosario Ortiz
Janet Gonzalez

Quorum met.

CALL TO ORDER

Santiago Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Santiago Gonzalez welcomed everyone and introduced himself. The council members and staff also introduced themselves. The council and staff welcomed Trini Acosta.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The program currently has 143 active volunteers. There are 7 volunteers who are out due to health problems. Two foster grandparents have passed away, Francisco Garcia and Inez Gamez. The program has already expended about half of the funds.

This year the summer hours will be reduced. And the volunteers will continue to serve 20 hours per week.

The Corporation has asked for a new evaluation from the sites; they are asking for more information. They are asking for information on the child the foster grandparent serves. There are three parts to the evaluation. In the beginning of the school year, the middle and then the end of the school year. They want to know if the child benefited from the foster grandparent. During the year, Beatriz and Rosario are responsible for gathering all the data from the volunteer sites. Due to the shortage of staff, it is hard to keep on schedule. The sites should be visited twice a year.

By the end of March, 70,000 service hours have been served. Therefore, the program is doing great in hours served. The program is not in need of new foster grandparents, therefore, there will not be a new class of foster grandparents. Currently there are 32 people in the waiting list.

The program was awarded \$25,597 from CDBG fund this fiscal year. It will fund 28 foster grandparents. Goodwill Industries has a grant with Paso Del Norte and will fund 2 foster grandparents. They will cover the stipend and mileage; the program will cover the rest. This grant will serve disabled students who have left high school.

The program will apply for a grant from Housing Authority. Currently 18 volunteers live in that area and should qualify.

Maria advised the members that the program will participate in this year Senior Expo which will be held on May 22. The next in-service is scheduled for May 20 and children from Canutillo Independent School District will hold a recognition program for the foster grandparents. Approximately 90 kingergarten will sing and present a gift to each volunteer.

The recognition banquet is scheduled for December 14, 2007. The place where it will be held is undecided yet. The Radisson and the Vista Del Sol Conference Center are in mind. The staff went to the Vista Del Sol Conference Center but thought it was too isolated. There is a bus stop but traffic is of great concern. Maritza Ruley advised the members that she feels a hotel is more comfortable. Trini Acosta suggested the new Hilton Garden Hotel; Maria will look into it. Maria told the members that in prior years the Cliff Inn has had restroom problems. Both the Marriott and Radisson are more expensive than the Hilton.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Maria advised the members that the council is still short on members. She encouraged anyone who knows people interested to please let her know. Maria has sent emails to the representatives asking for members and is it also in the city website of the openings this council has.

NEW BUSINESS

Banquet Program – Maria will be sending letters to volunteer site for participation in the Banquet's Program. Maria wants to encourage the sites to purchase ads for the program. There are currently 47 volunteer sites. She is trying to see if she can get someone to donate the printing.

Maritza suggested for Maria to call Quality Printing. This will help as a fundraiser for the program. Letters will also be mailed to the council members.

Trini Acosta was appointed by City Representative Beto O'Rourke, District #8. All the necessary paperwork has already been signed by Ms. Acosta. Ms. Acosta is the AARP El Paso Community Team Leader.

Rocio Lozano is also a new member. She was unable to attend today's meeting. She is from the YWCA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trini Acosta announced that Home Depot along with many volunteers will be building a playground for children at the Salazar Housing Complex located at 311 South Eucalyptus. It will take place on Thursday, April 19 @ 8:30 a.m. Housing Authority will provide the park maintenance.

The staff will mail out the program evaluations to the sites. We will be notifying the members if we need any help with any follow up phone calls.

The next advisory council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

Maria mentioned to the members that during CDBG week, the department will be having a grand opening of Estrella Park and a neighborhood cleanup in that area will also take place. The department will be having a picnic for the residents in that area.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ruben Rodriguez to adjourn meeting Maritza Ruley seconded, motion passed, meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Reviewed by Maria I. Valdivia
Coordinator

Approved by Santiago Gonzalez
Program Advisory Council President

Date

Date