

# APPROVED

## COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING APRIL 9, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

### CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR 100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE

#### **Board Members**

	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Cumulative From 10/06</u></b>	
			<b><u>(P)</u></b>	<b><u>(A)</u></b>
Marie Conroy		A	0	6
Marjorie Davis		A	0	5
Diane Schuster	P		6	0
William Goetz	P		6	0
Michael Kimmey	P		5	1
Avery Dial	P		3	3
Margaret Birch		A	5	1
Fenel Antoine	P		4	2
Emmett Kater		A	4	2
Adriane Reeseey	P		3	1
Sanford Rosenthal	P		4	0
Jan Beasley	P		1	1

#### **Staff Present:**

Laura Maldonado, Administrative Support for Housing and the Advisory Board  
Helen McDonald, Division Secretary  
Diana McDowell, Monitoring and Compliance Officer  
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Manager, Housing & Community Development  
Margarette Hayes, Manager, Housing & Community Development

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

#### **Call to Order**

Chair William Goetz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Margarette Hayes announced that she had received calls from Margaret Birch and Emmett Kater saying that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

#### **Board and Staff Introductions**

Margarette Hayes proceeded to introduce staff that was present this evening.

#### **New Board Member Updates**

Margarette Hayes stated that Jan Beasley was a new board member and in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Jan Beasley stated that she moved from Tampa Bay and had been involved in government.

### **Approval of Minutes**

There being no additions or objections, the minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting stood approved as read.

### **CDBG 2007/2008 Applicant Project Presentation**

Chair William Goetz proceeded to explain the process to be followed regarding the presentations.

Margarette Hayes welcomed all the applicants and advised they had in excess of \$3 Million worth of requests, but only had \$302,099 for actual distribution. Therefore, this was a competitive process and each applicant needed to convince the Board why their organization should be funded.

Chair William Goetz explained the guidelines that were used in connection with the ranking of the organizations making requests.

#### **Crossroads Food Bank – Requesting \$21,900**

Don Adams, President of Crossroads Food Bank, stated that Diane Fihal, Director of Development for Crossroads Food Bank, was also present this evening.

Mr. Adams stated they began in 2002 and their purpose was to serve needy families and organizations. He advised that they wanted to expand and would need to purchase some equipment. He stated that during the hurricane they were used as an emergency center and they had performed well.

Ms. Fihal stated that from January, 2006 to September, 2006 they had serviced victims of the hurricane. She further stated that they also worked with Project Help and the United Way. She stated they had three employees and the president was a volunteer that worked about 65 hours per week at the center. She explained that they received about \$1 Million in in-kind donations for non-produce, and this year would received \$1 Million in produce donations which was about 25,000 lbs. of food per week. The Food Bank helped about 70 agencies in the County and they serviced low-income individuals. She advised that through special requests they also assisted groups outside of Broward County.

Their total project cost would be \$116,480.

Mr. Rosenthal asked if they operated a thrift store. Mr. Adams stated they had a thrift store in the past, but stopped that operation about 2 years ago because they needed additional volunteers. Mr. Rosenthal stated that he was impressed with their operation.

Mr. Antoine stated that individuals and agencies in Broward County should be assisted before any donations were given outside of the County. Ms. Fihal explained that they had an abundance of food, and she did not remember any request made that was not complied with. She advised that there was no waiting list, and most of the low-income individuals and families were centered in Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Adams explained that they were going to locate to another building west of the railroad tracks and north of Sunrise Boulevard which would have loading docks. He also explained that they provided two weeks' worth of groceries to help the families become self-sufficient.

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Chair William Goetz asked how their organization compared to other food services assisting low-income families and the homeless. Ms. Fihal stated that she did not believe anyone had the same program they did, but they were fortunate to have some wonderful in-kind donors which lowered their overhead costs. She further explained that the request for funds was to assist them to purchase a refrigerated truck, and to assist with the salaries for three full-time employees and one part-time employee.

Chair William Goetz asked how they knew if the families become self-sufficient, and did they keep track by number. Ms. Fihal explained that once individuals got on their feet, they volunteered at the center or called to say thank you because they were very grateful. She further explained that every month stats were taken of the clients. She stated that 55% or more of their clients were senior citizens, and a large number of their clients were also disabled. They were attempting to help children as much as possible.

Chair William Goetz asked for a further definition of stockholder's equity. Mr. Adams stated that he would have to check with the accountants who had prepared their financial reports.

Mr. Dial asked how long would the new facility be able to sustain their organization due to their current rate of growth, and had they made plans for the future. Mr. Adams stated that United Way and American Express had come on board with them.

Ms. Reese asked if they were known as Crossroads Evangelistic Ministries. Mr. Adams stated they did not go by that name since 2006, and are a 501C(3).

Mr. Antoine asked what would their organization do if the owner of the building asked them to vacate at a later date. Mr. Adams stated that the owner would not ask them to vacate because the building was purchased for their use, and they had signed on for at least 10 years.

### Fighting Chance Boxing and Fitness Club

Nicolo Paine stated that he was a volunteer mentor for the program. Norman Wilson stated he was the President of the program.

Mr. Paine explained they were starting this club in the context that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This program was designed to help at-risk youth who have the potential to become worthwhile citizens. He explained that for the last 8 years he worked at the courthouse as a Magistrate hearing cases regarding abused and neglected children. He stated that Norman Wilson was the head coach for the program.

Mr. Kimmey asked about further commitments from other donors to the program.

Mr. Wilson advised that the only funded program they had was the handi-program. Mr. Paine explained that they were hoping with the start-up funds that they would be able to attract other donors.

Mr. Rosenthal asked what the requirements were for the program. Mr. Wilson stated that any child could join from ages 10 on up. At the present time, they have about 100 children enrolled in the program. He advised that they had the capacity to take in 250 children.

Mr. Paine stated that any child from the City of Fort Lauderdale was welcome to join the program. Mr. Nelson advised that the gym was located in Carter Park at 1450 W. Sunrise Boulevard. Mr. Paine further stated that the location was between Sistrunk Boulevard and Sunrise east of I-95. Hours of operation would be after school until 9:00 p.m.

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Mr. Paine explained that various events would be held to introduce the program to the community. Mr. Wilson also advised that the program would be advertised through churches in the area. Mr. Paine added that he wanted to work in conjunction with the juvenile system.

Chair William Goetz asked if there had been any comparison studies done regarding children from the juvenile system entering into such a program, than ones who did not.

Mr. Paine stated that they could not arrive at a percentage of reformed juveniles who had been enrolled in such programs.

Mr. Dial asked if their organization had the ability to recruit 250 extra people during the coming fiscal year. Mr. Wilson confirmed and stated that he turns away many children who cannot afford the program. Therefore, this was why they were seeking funds to assist their organization. Mr. Paine stated that one of the largest costs for the program was the insurance required by the City for the facility and the US Boxing Association.

Chair William Goetz reiterated that he would be interested in the results of studies done showing that boxing programs such as this one kept children in the school system and out of trouble.

Mr. Dial stated that results of studies of general athletic programs would apply in this case.

Ms. Schuster stated that these types of programs helped to ease children's frustrations.

Ms. Reese asked for further explanation of the administration costs totaling \$24,000 that was listed in the budget.

Mr. Wilson stated that the insurance was a major factor which totaled \$40 per child annually, plus secretarial services in connection with paperwork required by the USBA (Amateur Boxing Association).

### Russell Life Skill & Reading Education

Dr. Mocombe, Program Director, stated they were an after school reading program which operated out of the Parks and Recreation Centers in Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miami, and Lauderdale. There were presently six centers and the funds requested would be used in the Fort Lauderdale Center located at Oswald Park. They offer after school programs to inner city children from Mondays through Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tutoring is offered by certified Broward County teachers. He explained that they emphasize the rules of grammar to help teach reading. He stated that this would be their 9<sup>th</sup> year of operation, and the 4<sup>th</sup> year they were requesting funds. This year they were requesting approximately \$50,000 and the majority of the funding would go towards teachers' salaries. Fund raisers are held throughout the year to subsidize the centers. A yearly golf tournament covers the administrative costs, along with other fund raisers held during the year.

Ms. Reese asked what contingency plans did they have if they would not receive any assistance. Dr. Mocombe explained that a Poker Tournament would be held, along with the Golf Tournament. Ms. Reese stated that this organization had also requested CDBG funds from the cities of Hollywood and North Miami as well. Dr. Mocombe confirmed and stated that they had received some funds from North Miami. He was presently preparing a presentation for the City of Hollywood to take place on Wednesday.

Chair William Goetz asked if this organization had submitted any letters of support from the City of Fort Lauderdale. Margarette Hayes stated that there were several letters submitted. One was from

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Broward County and the City of Hollywood. Chair William Goetz stated that no audits or balance sheets had been presented. Dr. Mocombe stated that balance sheets were provided, and an audit would take place at the end of this month since they never had one done before. He explained that they had done 990s in the past.

Margarette Hayes stated that Federal statements had been submitted and a 990, along with a tax return, included in their application packet.

Chair William Goetz asked how their program compared to other FCAT remedial programs. Dr. Mocombe stated that he compared their schools with the County and State scores in order to raise initiative. He continued stating that they were looking at 20 to 30 percentage points higher than the State and County. He explained that their students were referred to them by schools.

Ms. Reese stated that she noticed in the materials that the organization was referred to as a Christian Ministry. Dr. Mocombe stated that was Twain's vision and that was why he began the organization.

Chair William Goetz stated that he would like to see their cash flow and balance sheets for the last few years.

Mr. Rosenthal added that he had visited the organization and there were many children working on their studies.

Chair William Goetz stated that letters of support from some of the schools would be helpful.

Women in Distress

Jacqueline Gonzalez, Grants and Foundation Manager, and Faye Wright-Simpson, Grants Management and Quality Assurance Coordinator were present this evening.

Ms. Gonzalez stated they had been operating for 33 years and provide emergency shelter and supportive services for domestic violence victims and their children. Their services include advocacy, counseling, service management, clothing and household items. In 2005 there were 216 domestic violence offenses reported in this City, and they received 965 calls on the crisis line from Fort Lauderdale residents. They also service 62 Fort Lauderdale residents with shelter, and an additional 314 residents with outreach services. She advised that they had two shelters. One was located in Fort Lauderdale, and one was in the City of Hollywood. She explained that they had agreements with hotels and motels to accommodate such victims.

Ms. Reese asked what they had in place in connection for future on-going expenses. Ms. Gonzalez stated they were the only domestic violence service center in Broward County, and had other sponsors and also received in-kind donations.

Chair William Goetz asked if counseling came out of their budget. Ms. Simpson explained that they provided counseling and outreach services which was out of their budget.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that they were required by the State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to have a safety plan for each participant. Ms. Simpson reiterated that they were required to provide safety plans for every individual who came into the shelter. Ms. Gonzalez stated that they stayed in the shelters for at least 90 days, and they helped such individuals become self-sufficient, and they make sure these individuals have a safe place to go to. She further explained that they had an

agreement with the Broward County Courthouse and they had an advocate there and they filed victims compensation claims.

Ms. Schuster asked what was the average age of the women in these types of situations.

Ms. Simpson stated that the average age was between 25-30 and children did accompany these women. Ms. Gonzalez explained that their environment was child friendly. Ms. Simpson stated that they assisted individuals in obtaining Orders of Protection, and they were certified to assist these individuals with applications for relocation.

Chair William Goetz asked for further clarification of their finances and inquired whether they banked most of the funds they received instead of spending them.

Ms. Simpson stated they did not bank funds because most of the funds received were expended. She added that funding was received from other sources, including a grant from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. All such funds were used towards salaries and other expenses.

Ms. Beasley stated that some funds would have to be in reserve if they assisted individuals in relocations. Ms. Simpson stated that relocation funds came from the Attorney General's office.

Ms. Reese asked if they had to revert the grant funds if they were not spent. Ms. Simpson stated they were reimbursed for funds spent. She further explained that foundations made donations and fund raisers were held throughout the year.

Margarette Hayes clarified that the assets included their property which totaled \$1.4 Million, and equipment. She stated that funds had to be expended and then they were reimbursed, and some type of liquidity was necessary to do that.

Chair William Goetz stated that this group did a great service for the community.

#### City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Park Program

Barbara Barber, Parks and Recreation Department, stated she represents the Park Program for Reaching Kids. They are requesting scholarship dollars to apply towards registration fees for children in the northwest community to participate in after school programs, summer camp programs, learn to swim, teen programs, urban arts academy, and youth sports. She stated that over 4 million of children are left home alone during the summer months, and they believe their programs assist in keeping these children off the streets while training them in useful activities.

Chair William Goetz asked what would happen if they did not receive any funds. Ms. Barber explained that many children would be turned away from these programs. She further stated that these are on-going programs that have been offered for years, but they discovered there were many children on their own because parents could not afford or would not pay for these activities. She advised that this program had not been submitted to the Director of Parks and Recreation. She stated that they had five centers and each one served at least 150 to 200 children. She explained that a summer program cost \$310 which was cost prohibitive to average families in those communities. Also, many families had multiple children making it more cost prohibitive.

John Quentin, Parks and Recreation Department, stated they offer a public benefit and part of their budget was allotted for certain programs. With the implementation of these programs, they had seen a difference in the reduction of vandalism and crime.

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Chair William Goetz stated the City itself should fund these programs. He asked why this was being submitted before this Board as opposed to having this included in the budget. Mr. Quentin stated the City was funding the program, but they were requesting additional help for the children who were already being served. He explained that there was a funding gap.

Ms. Barber explained that they had to reach a certain amount of revenue per year, and they tried to reach that as best they could, but these programs helped to fill in the gap.

Ms. Reese asked what measurable goals and objectives did they have besides the satisfaction surveys. Ms. Barber stated the children were receiving experiences they would not necessarily encounter if they were not part of these programs.

Mr. Quentin further stated that they were attempting to level the playing field in providing these services.

City of Fort Lauderdale – Urban Aquatic Enrichment Program

Barbara Barber, Parks and Recreation, stated they have submitted a second application in connection with the Urban Aquatic Enrichment Program.

John Quentin, Parks and Recreation Department, stated they had not received funding for two years and there had been a tremendous drop in participants. He stated that the rate of drownings in South Florida for minorities and under privileged children was astonishing. One out of every four accidental deaths was due to drowning in South Florida. By providing such quality programs to children early on in their lives helps to prevent many unnecessary deaths and accidents. He added that their students had participated in swim programs in Washington, D.C. and swam against the best swimmers in the Nation. He encouraged everyone to see the movie "Pride" because it showed exactly what they were doing in these programs. He also stated that once these children turned 16 years-of-age they could be hired as lifeguards by the City. Approximately 20-25 lifeguards currently on the City's payroll as lifeguards came through this program.

Ms. Barber advised that they served at least 100 to 150 children per year.

Chair William Goetz asked why the Parks and Recreation Department did not fund these programs.

Ms. Barber stated that the programs were considered extremely specialized and the City did underwrite signature programs.

Margaret Hayes advised that they were requesting \$6480 in block grant dollars.

Ms. Barber explained that the department did underwrite the staffing fees and the lifeguard fees which were significant and totaled \$35,000 per year, including another \$10,000 for supervision and oversight of the program, along with marketing of the programs.

Future Stars Use Sports Association

Marcina Wood, President of Future Stars Use Sports Association, stated they were requesting funding for 2008/2009 and had received such funding for the last two years. Their association is run by volunteers and they use Bass Park off 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The organization services children between the ages of 5 to 17 who come from low to medium income families. They have a traveling basketball program which was a major cost.

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Ms. Reese asked what their measurable outcomes were previously. Ms. Wood stated that their services are hard to measure on paper. However, the children leave the program differently than when they entered it because they work on self-esteem, self-awareness, as well as team strategies which helps the children to become self-sufficient. She further stated that they are targeting to serve 40 children, but they have surpassed that number, and at the present time were servicing approximately 50 children and they were looking for that number to grow.

Chair William Goetz explained that evaluation for the criteria rests on whether they were able to help a child graduate from high school, and asked how many had they helped which would not have graduated otherwise. Ms. Wood stated that she could not state that they might not have otherwise graduated, but every child who spent 3-6 years in their program had graduated from high school and was now in college.

Ms. Wood explained that since they applied for these funds last year, they were now 501(c) 3 tax exempt. She stated that previously they did not have records showing all their expenses, and she explained that they were learning as they went and were now working with the community to build a program and have volunteers with expertise in all these fields to assist them. She further explained that they received "favors" whereby they got discounts in the costs for their traveling expenses. She further stated that they were looking to become stationery and lease a facility from the City.

Ms. Schuster stated that due to the expenses involved in national competitions, even though they are good for the children, was an unnecessary expense.

Mr. Kimmey stated that on the materials submitted, it appears the expense for uniforms was still great, and he asked why they had not sought out sponsors to pay for them. Ms. Wood stated the expense for uniforms would not be as great this year, and based on when they had received the funds and the time they had to spend the funds, the uniforms had been purchased.

**MEETING RECESSED AT 8:47 P.M.  
MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:57 P.M.**

Jack 'n Jill Infant/Toddler Room

Susan Stanley, Finance Director, stated that Shannon Prohaszka, Program Director, was also present this evening.

Ms. Prohaszka explained that this grant was for their infant/toddler program. She stated that this organization was established in 1942 by the Junior League. In 2003 they began this program in their center and they serve 21 children of low income families. They are serving 90% single-mom households with an average of 2-3 children. Their service provides the opportunity for moms to get back in the work force. In Broward County there are 600 licensed childcare facilities and only 271 are nationally accredited, and 21 only offer infant/toddler programs. She explained that 90% of a person's brain is developed within the first six years of their lives. Therefore, they begin tracking the infants at 6 weeks of age. She stated that they also offer wrap-around services to moms in at-risk situations, including education regarding the developmental milestones of their children and providing links to essential services in the community. She stated that their program ran about \$185,000. They have community collaboration through the Peacock Foundation, and received subsidized monies from Family Central, as well as the Florida State Food Program. She advised that they did utilize 100% of all funds allocated to their program.

Ms. Reese asked how they identified motor identification issues and was it through pediatric physical therapy. Ms. Prohaszka explained that they used a questionnaire which focused on fine



motor growth and a portfolio was kept on each child. A behavior analyst was on site who was familiar with essential milestones of toddlers.

Mr. Rosenthal asked what set their program apart from other agencies making them deserving of the funds.

Ms. Prohaszka stated that of the licensed centers they needed to expose themselves to other quality assurance programs, such as the Apple that was a Florida State Accreditation, and the national accreditation program. A self-assessment program was conducted and they were rated.

Ms. Stanley stated that what set their program apart from other daycare centers was that they not only offer quality programs for the children, but they have wrap-around programs for the families.

Ms. Prohaszka explained that these infant/toddler programs were more expensive than ones for older children because additional square footage was needed, and there was a lower ratio involved and more teachers were needed per child. If funds were not received, they would have to search high and low to find other sponsors because they believe these programs were vital to the children and the families. She added that to receive subsidized monies, the agency had to go through licensing and were visited and monitored about 3 to 4 times per year and were rated.

Ms. Stanley explained that they had between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in the bank, and had a \$2.1 million annual budget. Therefore, they have about 3-4 months of operating expenses in reserve and would like to raise that to six months.

#### Jack 'n Jill Scholarship Program

Ms. Prohaszka stated that their second grant request was for scholarships. In 1994 they established their first scholarship program due to drastic cuts in government subsidized monies. She explained that 90% of their families qualify for these monies. She further stated that currently Family Central who allocates the subsidized care for children has a wait list of approximately 8,000 children, and their goal was to serve those children. Their program requires that certain criteria be met by the families such as the follow:

- They have to be a working family and working 30 hours per week or in school for that amount of time. This allows the families to pay towards the scholarship on an average of \$50. The cost was \$125 per week.
- They have to be on the Family Central wait list.
- They have to participate in the parenting programs offered. This links them to a social worker that was on staff.

Ms. Prohaszka further added that they had support and collaboration through the Knight Foundation. She advised that this program would service 13 children and they were requesting \$50,000.

Mr. Kimmey stated that combining their two programs, the amounts cover about one-third of the monies they have to distribute. He asked if only one program could be funded which program would they choose.

Ms. Prohaszka stated she would choose the infant/toddler program because their safety was at risk and early intervention was crucial.

Mr. Rosenthal asked how they met their expenses in the past.

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Ms. Stanley explained that these programs have been in existence for about three years and their number of children to service had increased and that was the need for them to relocate. Fundraisers were held during the year, and they made application to various foundations. They apply to whatever funding sources were available. She further explained that they had to fund raise about \$1.2 million per year.

Chair William Goetz asked if any of the children were involved in a research program. Ms. Prohaszka explained that they worked closely with NOVA University and were in the third year of a pilot program with them looking at literacy and tracking parent involvement, as well as stimulating environments in the classroom to see how well their children would succeed in school.

### Coalition To End Homelessness

No one appeared to be present to make a presentation.

### Lighthouse For The Blind

Elly du Pre, Executive Director, stated that they were requesting monies for their Lighthouse On The Move Program that was a direct result of community involvement in their service delivery model decision making. She stated that individuals were outliving their vision and a study had been completed by Duke University in connection with Medicare recipients, and the result found that one out of every two people over the age of 60 had an eye condition that could lead to vision impairment or blindness. She explained that they wanted to serve individuals in senior centers and programs which serves the elderly.

Mr. Rosenthal stated this group teaches mobility, how to read Braille, and computers and he had been to their facility years ago. Ms. duPre explained they taught medication management, managing of finances, and using computers, along with mobility. She advised that personal management items were also taught. She advised that they were requesting \$10,000 in funding, but their total program would run about \$75,000 which would service 150 individuals. She added that this program would serve individuals over the age of 60. She explained that individuals in this age bracket could have multiple handicaps or illnesses.

Chair William Goetz stated that their organization provided a great service.

### Covenant House Florida

Jim Gress, Executive Director, stated that they were part of an international organization known as Covenant House which has existed for over 30 years. They began in 1972 in New York and now exist in 15 cities in the United States, two in Canada, and in four countries in South America and Mexico. Their mission is to care for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth under the age of 21. The particular project they are requesting funds for was the life skills and life enrichment, job readiness program. They began providing services in Fort Lauderdale in September, 1985, and they find that the majority of young people that came to them were from negative home environments. They operate a 104-bed crisis shelter open 24 hours in this City and were a block off the ocean at A1A south of Sunrise Boulevard. Admission to their facility was self-referred. He advised that this Board provided partial funds to their organization last year, and they fully expended the monies awarded to them. They are requesting \$42,294 that represents 49% of their total project cost. They propose to serve 750 young people in this project out of 900 to 1,000 who would enter their shelter. Returning home was their first goal if there was a healthy and appropriate environment. The sad reality was that in about 90% of the cases that was not an option, and these individuals needed to become self-sufficient. Life skill classes were offered which were a combination of the hard life skills such as bill

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paying, budgeting, and learning how to use a checkbook. Some soft skills such as learning how to solve problems and live and work with others were also taught, along with anger management. Job readiness classes prepare them to go to work.

Mr. Gress further stated that they believe it is necessary for the young people to complete their education, and therefore, have an on-site GED program available.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that he heard children were forced to leave due to not obeying curfews, and asked what percentage of young people fell into that category. Mr. Gress stated that they did not force anyone to leave, but did have a structure in place and curfews were in place. They believed 6:30 p.m. was a good time and it was not good for children to be on the beach at night. Unless the person has a place to be which was relative to their plan, such as a job, then the curfew would not apply. They have an expectation of their people because if they are to be productive, they need to live under a simple set of rules. He stated they were a Catholic organization through their founding, but religion was not a barrier.

Mr. Gress further stated that when a young person wants to return, they sit and talk with them and see the need for their return. Re-admittance is made on an individualized basis. He advised that roughly two-thirds of the people they see today were from Broward County. He stated that the majority of their youth were of minorities.

Chair William Goetz stated that this was a good organization.

ComServ, Inc.

Norman Powell, President, stated they were representing a program known as Mother Wit. Over one million people in the US are infected with HIV, and about 40% of them are not aware of the fact. Florida is the third highest state with the number of HIV cases, and the second highest number for pediatric cases. Florida is the number one state having children under the age of 13 living with AIDS, and Broward County is #1 in the entire nation for new AIDS cases. They are proposing this program to empower young women of color to develop positive self-images and convictions to enable them to abstain from sex, and delay such contact while developing knowledge of safer sex practices and face other challenges presented to them by their peers and social settings. He added that they are an outreach organization. He further stated that he had requested funding from this Board three times, but had not been granted any monies. He stated that he wanted to use these funds to leverage getting more money into this County. He invited everyone to the National HIV Testing Day on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Art Serv from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. He believes this program would have a definitive impact on the community due to the standards they had in place.

Chair William Goetz asked how they knew what they were doing was cost effective in reducing HIV transmission.

Mr. Powell explained that they had reached over 26,000 people in the last year. He added that schools were not teaching children about HIV, and he had a contract with the School Board to go into the schools and present his program. He added that he was also on the Advisory Board of the Broward County School Board for HIV Prevention. Sheets were sent home to parents with the children showing that they had been part of this program, and if parents had questions they could contact the organization.

Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine

Johanna Yang, President, stated that she needed the City's support, not only financial but spiritual support. She added that people needed their services. She stated that traditional Chinese medicine provided massages for babies who have HIV that can help them live better. Acupuncture can also help HIV patients because it raises the immune system, but everything costs money and funds are needed to help pay the doctors.

Mt. Olive Development Corporation

Dr. Rosalind Osgood, President, introduced Sharon Bryant, Program Administrator.

Dr. Osgood stated they were again seeking funding for their industry-based and job placement business skill program. This was a short-term program and the City had assisted them for the last two years. Participants were recruited for the program through an emergency program operated by their organization and funded through the United Way. She explained that the program cost about \$59,000 and they were requesting \$25,000 from the CDBG funds. This program has been operated for the last two years and there has been several success stories, and they feel it is unique because it allows individuals to be more autonomous. This program empowers individuals to become self-sufficient.

Chair William Goetz asked how many of their individuals had managed to purchase homes. Dr. Osgood stated that about five individuals were homeowners, and three of those people were homeless and participated in the HOPWA Program.

Ms. Reese asked how many hours was the Broward County Housing Authority Care Training Program. Ms. Bryant stated that the program was about two hours through which they partnered with HOPE, Inc. The program was a tenant-based program consisting of tenants rights and responsibilities.

Dr. Osgood explained that they trained individuals regarding household budgets, but a lot of their programs depend on the willingness of the people to change their lifestyles and go to the next level. She further stated they had a relationship with Regents Bank and Bank Atlantic whereby they would grant their organization five accounts for individuals who would not have to pay any banking fees or retain a required balance as an incentive for financial security. Ms. Reese asked if information could be supplied to the Board as to how many individuals had established bank accounts with a minimum balance. Ms. Bryant agreed that such information could be provided.

Ms. Bryant added that 100% of the individuals who enrolled in the CNA Program would go through their skills training program that would assist them in obtaining employment. Of the 12 people that went through the CNA Program, 7 of them are working successfully.

Chair William Goetz asked if they had any letters of support from organizations or the general public. Ms. Bryant stated that the Dorsey River Bend Homeowners Association had provided a letter of support.

Ms. Reese asked if they were still providing re-entry services. Dr. Osgood confirmed and stated they were in the process of expanding such services. They want to build an empowerment center that would house those programs along the Sistrunk Corridor. The job placement training programs which currently exist were geographical barriers to the individuals they serve. They were proposing to serve 45 clients with the requested funding, and they would serve 87 individuals in connection with the entire project.

New Visions Community Development Corporation

Jacqueline Tufts, Executive Director, stated they were a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that provides decent and safe affordable housing in low income communities. They also provide financial literacy and homebuyer education programs. These programs were needed because potential first-time homebuyers were not aware of the potential pitfalls that face homeowners. Last year they provided 1900 people with assistance. In 2005 133 participants of the program became homeowners, and in 2006 82 participants became homeowners. The market price in Broward County increased and currently the average cost of a home was \$250,000 to \$300,000. She advised that they also provided down payment and closing cost assistance.

Mr. Antoine asked what were the qualification requirements for these individuals. Ms. Tufts stated that everything depended on family size and household income. They attempt to leverage as much money as possible from various sources to assist people to qualify for more housing. Depending on credit such individuals could qualify for about \$90,000 to \$100,000 and it would be leveraged with different funding. She further explained that they asked that the individuals bring at least 3% of their own funds to the table, and to the County they need to have at least 1%.

Ms. Reese asked if they dealt with a particular mortgage company. Ms. Tufts stated they were not able to steer individuals to any one place, but they had lenders that the City and County worked with. She advised that 1,966 individuals went through their program in 2006.

Mr. Antoine left the meeting at approximately 10:20 p.m.

Ms. Reese asked how many of the homeowners still owned their homes. Ms. Tufts stated their ratios were high and they did not have fall-outs or foreclosures. There were guidelines set up by the City and County that required the individuals to live in the houses for a certain period of time. They also had what was called post-closing counseling for clients who got into trouble. These individuals were steered away from predatory lenders.

Ms. Beasley asked what happened if an individual had to leave the house within the required timeframe. Ms. Tufts explained that the County now had deed restrictions and it was a forgiven mortgage with a lien if the buyer stayed in the home, but if they left then they were required to pay back the monies.

Mount Bethel Human Services

Nethel Stephens, Executive Director, stated the total cost of running their neighborhood empowerment sub-sufficiency program was \$82,028.05. The cost of empowering people to believe that they can do things is priceless. This program was designed to create job stability and employment for individuals who were residents of this City. It was also designed to work with individuals who lacked employable skills. The unemployment rate has increased 16% for such individuals. This program offers comprehensive employment training and support services to individuals who were either chronically unemployed or were just unemployed individuals. In their job program, they recruit employers who agree to work with the population they were serving and training. Of the clients served in their dependency program, 28% had at least one criminal charge in relation to sex offenses that impedes their employment stability. She advised that letters of support were submitted with their application.

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City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department

Patrick Lynch, Public Safety Grants Manager for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Sgt. Robbie Blish, and Kate McCaffey, Code Enforcement Manager, were present regarding this matter.

Mr. Lynch stated this project was to eradicate graffiti throughout the City which was a damaging problem in terms of economic consequences and the broken windows theory. In 2005 they received funds through the CDBG program and they focused on youth at that time. This program today was a different program. In 2006 they did not request funding because they were able to sustain the program on their own. This program would be an improvement and enhancement to the existing one. Graffiti is increasing throughout the City, and the City Manager in January established a working group in the City that was a collaboration of the police department, public works, and the code enforcement department to arrive at a comprehensive action plan in connection with this problem.

Mr. Lynch continued stating that they had created a new database that tracked all such incidents throughout the City, as well as clean-up records. They were looking to change the ordinance that would require owners to remove the graffiti from their property more quickly, and were sending out waiver forms to go on private property. Research showed that the quicker graffiti was removed, the better chance at long-term success. There would be a graffiti clean-up day on May 19, 2007 which would serve as a prototype. They were asking for community assistance to solve this problem. One of the main things in connection with this grant was the creation of graffiti removal kits that they want to hand out to residents which was modeled after a program in Reno, Nevada. He proceeded to show the contents of such kits, and stated they had a 20% reduction in graffiti with these kits. This was something that could be measured.

Mr. Lynch further stated that they had put in their information the amount of \$26 per kit which were the best estimates they had received, but since submitting their application they received more reasonable estimates and some businesses offered products at cost, along with donations.

Mr. Lynch added that there was no money in the City's budget for this program. Therefore, they were requesting CDBG funds. The City was granting \$5,000 for a new security portable camera that could be placed at sites that were high targets for such graffiti.

Ms. McCaffey explained that they wanted to educate property owners in this problem because the biggest defense was to remove it immediately when it occurred.

Ms. Reese asked what the ordinance said at this time regarding the removal of graffiti for both business owners and homeowners. Ms. McCaffey explained that the current ordinance did not state a specific time for removal of such graffiti.

First Call For Help

Betty Kukin, Program Director of the 211 Help Line, stated that dialing 211 a person would reach a 24-hour help line. Types of call received fall into one of three categories that were information and referral calls, listening calls, and crisis calls. She advised that over 45% of their calls were for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and financial assistance.

Chair William Goetz asked how many people that sought referrals actually received help. Ms. Kukin stated they did a follow-up with about 5% to 7% of their callers because most calls were anonymous. She advised that their number of calls keep increasing.

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Autumn Hahn stated that due to the advertising campaign which Miami-Dade's 211 had done, they had a 30% call increase between October and March.

### Broward Homeland Program

Diane Smith, Executive Director, stated they were established in 1986 and they have three programs that were the subsidy program, community care for disabled adults, and meal delivery. Two programs were specifically for disabled adults suffering from a variety of physical disabilities. The age group they serve were 18 to 59. The goal of their agency was to provide in-home services that were essential to enable these individuals to live independently and with dignity. The program they were requesting funding for was the home delivery of meals which was the same as the Meals on Wheels for the elderly. They provide 7 home-delivered meals which were frozen. They subcontract with caterers and had delivered them in the past once a week, but due to the cost of gasoline they receive 14 meals every other week. These people could not receive these services from any other agency in the County. They have an active caseload of about 80 clients and they served 178 clients last year. She stated that 47 of those clients reside in this City. She advised that there were additional available programs for individuals over 60 years of age. She added that additional food was delivered to needy individuals from their food pantry. She further stated that some clients had individual needs due to health situations or diseases and the food in the pantries were not always good for such individuals.

### Starting Over

William Carson introduced Susan Sno White and James Fitzgerald and stated they were representing Starting Over, Inc. He advised that they were funded last year for their shelter, and this year they were seeking funding to continue their program.

Ms. White stated they had an 11,500 sq. ft. warehouse that was lost during the hurricane, along with about \$3 Million worth of supplies. They received a disaster loan which helped them purchase equipment.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he had been in the cabinet business for the last 25 years and the machinery they purchased would help them attack the commercial industry to fund their program.

Mr. Carson presented a brief outline of what they do from the beginning to the end. He advised that he could supply data as to how many individuals went through their programs and were successfully employed. Community support letters were supplied with their request. He stated they no longer did walk-ins and received referrals from Henderson Clinic, BOC, 524 Beds, Broward Coalition, and the Salvation Army, along with church referrals.

### Grace Community Development Corporation

Rose Harrigan, volunteer, introduced Luke Harrigan who was the President of the corporation. Ms. Harrigan stated this corporation wanted to implement the STARS Program which stands for Stop, Think And Respond Soldiers. The program was to reduce juvenile delinquency among the low-income and at-risk Haitian males between the ages of 10 to 17 residing in this City. They would track grades through school personnel, and would also perform law enforcement checks. They wanted to provide purpose for these children and create goals for their futures. She advised that this program was to help these specific children overcome some of their cultural problems.

Ms. Hayes stated that the STARS Program had been funded in prior years through a different agency. She advised that they were targeting a certain population that made it eligible under the

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Federal Regulations. From what she remembered, they had a fairly successful program that had been run by MDEM that had the same type of concept.

Mr. Harrigan stated that he would be the CEO person and would have a director managing the program. He stated that he would receive a salary.

Ms. Reeseey asked where this program would be located. Mr. Harrigan stated they were at Powerline and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Girls Scouts of America

Monica Cupid stated that everyone was familiar with this organization, and for the past four years this City had provided funding to their organization. They provided an outreach service to over 1200 girls. They were requesting funds this year to help sustain and expand their program. They were looking to serve 350 girls and all services were easily accessible.

Chair William Goetz asked how girls in their program translated to individuals graduating from high school and going on to college and sustainable employment in comparison to girls not in the organization.

Ms. Cupid stated that their programs prepared the girls to go out into the real world. She believed that about one-half of the girls they serviced last year would return to the organization this year. If they do not receive the funds, it would affect how residents of this City were served. They depended on grant funding from cities and government contracts, along with other entities. She advised that there were about 296 girls and they averaged about 30 girls to a troop.

Other Business

Margarette Hayes stated that the notification for the Better Meetings Academy had been sent to her, and they were requesting that the Chair and Vice Chair of Advisory Boards attend the meeting, and other members were also invited. The meeting would be held on May 29, 2007 at 5:45 p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor of City Hall.

**Motion** made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Ms. Beasley to adjourn the meeting. Board unanimously agreed.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,  
Recording Secretary



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