

APPROVED

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING April 14, 2008- 7:00 P.M.

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR 100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE

Board Members

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
			<u>From 10/07</u> <u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Marjorie Davis		A	0	6
William Goetz	P		6	0
Michael Kimmey	P		4	2
Avery Dial	P		6	0
Margaret Birch	P		5	1
Fenel Antoine		A	4	2
Emmett Kater		A	4	2
P.J. Espinal	P		3	3
David Maymon	P		4	2
Tunde Ogunlana		A	3	3
Christopher Priester	P		5	0
James Currier		A	0	1

Staff Present:

Margarette Hayes, Manager, Housing & Community Development
Angelia Basto, Administrative Support
Helen McDonald, Secretary
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Community Development Manager
Dana McDowell, Monitoring and Compliance Officer

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Michael Kimmey called the meeting to order at approximately 7:12 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken and there was not a quorum.

Board and Staff Introductions

Margarette Hayes stated that a new appointment was made to this Board and that was James Currier, but he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to being detained up north.

Margarette Hayes proceeded to introduce staff who were present at tonight's meeting.

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Approval of Minutes

Chair Michael Kimmey stated that there were two sets of minutes that needed to be approved.

Chair Michael Kimmey stated that on the March 10, 2008 minutes, page 7, paragraph 3, he would like the minutes to reflect that he had mentioned having the applications completed in entirety, but that they might be turning away qualified programs if this was done. He felt such a restriction would be more of a deterrent.

Ms. Hayes reminded the Board that the minutes could not be approved tonight due to the fact that a quorum of the Board was not present.

Conflict of Interest Discussion

Ms. Hayes stated that she wanted to remind the Board before they heard tonight's presentations and next month regarding funding recommendations that anyone having a conflict of interest or association with any of the entities making their requests must make such declaration and reclude themselves from voting.

Ms. Birch asked for further clarification of the word "association," and asked if that meant someone having a position within the organization. Ms. Hayes confirmed and also stated that it meant having a position of influence within that organization.

CDBG 2008/2009 Applicant Project Presentation

Ms. Hayes explained that tonight's process would involve a five minute presentation being made before this Board, and then the Board would have the opportunity to ask their questions. If the applicant did not have the answer to any question this evening, they could supply the answer afterwards. Any further distributions by the applicants must be made through Ms. Hayes and not given directly to this Board.

Ms. Hayes proceeded to announce the order of presentations as follows:

1. Women In Distress
2. Jack 'n Jill – The Infant Toddler Program
3. Jack 'n Jill – The Scholarship Program
4. Task Force For Ending Homelessness
5. Girl Scouts of America
6. Second Chance Society
7. Future Stars Youth Sports Association
8. Safe Water Instruction Means Safety Foundation
9. Aspira
10. Russell Life Skills and Reading Foundation
11. Covenant House
12. Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation
13. First Call For Help
14. Lighthouse For The Blind
15. The Mocombeian Foundation
16. Cross Road Food Bank

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17. Broward Home Bound
18. Com Serv

Women In Distress

Jackie Gonzalez introduced herself as the Foundation and Grants Manager for Women in Distress, and Faye Wright Simpson stated that she handled the Grants Management and Quality Assurance aspect of Women in Distress.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked this Board for their continued support and explained that this organization was established in 1974 providing services to victims of domestic violence. Outreach services were also provided such as advocacy, children's therapy, and adult therapy, as well as residential services providing 62 beds, along with a Department of Social Change providing awareness and education regarding domestic violence and prevention.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that they applied for slightly over \$63,000 to provide two different positions at the agency that would work directly at residential services, and a position covering crisis calls. Last year 36% of the services provided were to Fort Lauderdale residents, and of those residents 113 were provided shelter, and 159 were provided individual and group counseling, 162 residents were provided Respite care, and 1532 were provided information and referral services.

Mr. Goetz asked if there is any follow-up regarding how many individuals reach resources successfully.

Ms. Simpson stated they did not have specific numbers, but for the most part when individuals were seeking shelter they would contact the crisis line, and if they could not be placed referrals were made. They also had partnerships with various hotels in the County. She added that such information could be provided later on to the Board.

Mr. Goetz asked how long the CQI Program had been in place. Ms. Simpson advised that such program had been in place for 7-8 years. Mr. Goetz stated that such program could be used by other agencies as a template. He further stated that past recipients had been contacted regarding services provided, and asked what percentage had not been contacted. Ms. Simpson stated that sometimes when residents leave the program, they were not reachable.

Ms. Espinal asked if the two positions being requested would work directly with clients. Ms. Simpson confirmed and stated they would be advocates either in the residential program or at the main office or outreach center. Ms. Espinal asked if any follow-up is done after the Court proceedings occur. Ms. Simpson stated that there were times they assisted in that service.

Mr. Goetz asked if they did not grant the full amount would they still hire the lead advocate and the part-time advocate. Ms. Simpson explained that they would still make some budget adjustments in order to accommodate filling such positions.

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Mr. Maymon asked for a brief sketch of their operation, including the number of staff positions and counselors.

Ms. Simpson stated that there were about 100 staff, along with administrative positions, and counselors at the residential areas and at the outreach center totaling about 60 individuals. She would have to check their organizational chart for the exact number.

Mr. Maymon clarified that the \$60,000 would be used for one full-time and part-time advocate position. Ms. Gonzalez confirmed.

Ms. Hayes advised that individuals were welcome to remain at the meeting after their presentations were given.

Jack 'n Jill Children's Center – Infant Toddler Program

Susan Stanley introduced herself as the Finance Director of this organization. Shannon Prohaszek stated that she was the Executive Director of the organization.

Ms. Prohaszek stated that they were established in 1942 by the Junior League due to the fact that women returned to the work force because of men serving this Country in WWII. Their mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low income working families in Broward County. She stated that 90% of their families were single mothers making 150% of the poverty line with an average size family of 2-3 children, and making an annual income of about \$20,000. She further stated that they did a survey in 2000 to determine the major needs for the families which found that there was a large lack of toddler programs being offered in this County. Currently, there were 600 childcare facilities licensed by the County, and only 30 of them are nationally accredited, and less than 1/3 of the programs provide for infants and toddlers. This creates dangerous situations where individuals were forced to leave their children in precarious situations. Therefore, in 2003 their infant toddler program was created. She advised that they served about 170 children, and 21 of those children ranged in age from 0 to 24 months. Their goal was to provide care for working families.

Ms. Prohaszek stated the effectiveness of their program was that there be long-term school success for the children, along with stability and safety. Families were offered the option of education for their children while being in daycare. She explained that 90% of a person's brain is developed by the age of 5, and therefore, this window is crucial for the children's development. They have a portfolio system whereby they were able to track the children's developmental progress, and last year 9 out of 9 infants were developing on track, along with the same of their toddlers. Early intervention is also a crucial need. Retention was huge and they were able to track their children who started in the program in 2003, and over 50% of those were graduating. There was a huge need for infant/toddler care in the community. Their request was that one-quarter of their program was to be funded through the CDBG. Last year they also had the City Block Grant, along with Peacock and the Knight Foundation.

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Ms. Espinal asked how many children ranging from 0 to 2 were being served at this facility. Ms. Prohaszek explained that there were 21 such children being served. She explained further that their program holds 170 children. The program is expensive because younger children needed additional square footage. She added that they also had a pre-school program serving children over the age of 24 months. She reiterated that the infant/toddler program served 21 children. Ms. Espinal clarified that the service was based on a parent's income. Ms. Prohaszek confirmed, but explained that there was a sliding scale because they did not want to hurt a family's financial stability. She further explained that the income levels were tracked every three months.

Mr. Goetz clarified that the estimated cost per child was about \$8,000. Ms. Prohaszek confirmed. Mr. Goetz stated further that this was a higher cost in comparison to other applicants, and therefore, their organization would be held to higher standards. He asked what proof they had of success with their families. Ms. Prohaszek stated she would go into more detail about this issue in their scholarship program, but they had a family strengthening program which tracked the scholarship families from their entry into the program and work with a social worker who developed family success plans to help them build their resume to obtain higher paying jobs and get out of debt. She further stated that they track 40 families, and 60% remain stable with 30% actually increasing their economic salary range.

It was asked if they were independent of the Junior League. Ms. Prohaszek stated they were a legacy project and were currently independent, but had a huge support system with that group.

Mr. Maymon asked percentage wise how many of their families lived in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Stanley stated that she did not have the exact number, but that it was north of 80%.

Mr. Goetz asked if there was any evidence that they had actually reduced the incidents of child neglect and abuse. Ms. Prohaszek confirmed and stated that the families offered scholarships have to participate in a 10-week parenting course, and 60% of their families that enter their program were at risk for abuse and neglect. After graduating from the 10-week course, the average was only 17% at risk, and their last graduating class was reduced to 8%. She added that the individuals actually took pre-imposed tests by which their success was measured. Mr. Goetz stated that would not necessarily show the incidents being reduced and it was not a cause and effect, but only an association.

Chair Michael Kimmey stated that he had visited their site last year and was pretty impressed. He stated that he was impressed with what the five-year olds were being taught.

Mr. Goetz asked if any financial statements had been provided by this organization. Ms. Hayes stated that their response was "no parent company" for expense and financial statements for the last two years. Ms. Stanley stated that they had supplied financials for Jack 'n Jill which was a single entity. Ms. Hayes stated that she believed such information was included in the materials provided to the Board.

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Chair Michael Kimmey explained that the only financials were a public services project budget. Ms. Hayes stated that such information would be provided to the Board.

Jack 'n Jill – Family Strengthening Program

Ms. Prohaszek stated their mission was to break the cycle of low-income working families. This program started as a scholarship program in the 1980's when drastic government cuts occurred in subsidized care. There were 8,000 children on the waiting list which was the allocation of subsidized funds showing a great need for this type of program. She further stated there were accountabilities that the families had to follow. All families had to be working families in order to qualify for a scholarship or at least attending classes for 30 hours per week. This information is checked on every four months. These families also had to be on the family central wait list because the goal of the program was to fill the need of the wait list until they could be picked up by subsidized care.

Ms. Prohaszek explained that the third most unique component of the program was the family strengthening program aspects which included emergency assistance funds and the parent enrichment program consisting of the 10-week classes focusing on topics such as destressing as a parent, alternatives to spanking, and appropriate expectations of your children. These classes were taught by a behavioral analysis, as well as an actual Jack 'n Jill former parent who has been able to apply these skills to their lives and become successful. She explained that 60% of their families were at risk for child abuse and neglect, and that figure has been reduced to 17%. The last layer of the program was the social worker who creates family success plans for each family. The goal was to help qualified families with a hand up and not a handout. Payment for the program was based on a sliding scale. She added that last year they had collaborations through the Knight Foundation, Family Central, and the Gore Foundation.

Mr. Goetz stated that a total of \$226,000 was provided regarding this project, and asked how many children were served in this program. Ms. Prohaszek explained that their entire scholarship program was generally around 45-50 children of all ages.

Mr. Maymon asked if this group was part of another entity. Ms. Stanley stated that most of their assets listed had been raised during a capital campaign when moving to their new building, and \$3.6 Million is in that building on Broward Boulevard. She further explained that they did have about \$500,000 available in cash, but ran about a \$2 Million per year budget.

Task Force Ending Homelessness

David Freedman, Executive Director, stated their organization was featured on last month's *Focus on Fort Lauderdale*. He stated that their President and Founder of the organization was present tonight, Richard Courtney, who had been homeless, along with another Board Member Lorraine Wilby. He further stated that Jamie Constance was a police partner, but unable to be present at this time. He stated that this organization was eight years old and presently had two full-time staff members doing

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outreach in the community. The model used was a nationally recognized model developed in this City whereby a police officer and an outreach worker go into the areas where homeless individuals congregate and talk with them and get them to enter a shelter. In Fort Lauderdale, that would be the Central Homeless Assistance Center located on Sunrise Boulevard. Their request is for a van because this program is a mobile service. Their staff is equipped with cell phones and wireless computers so data could be kept up to date. In their eight years of operation, they have made approximately 40,000 contacts.

Ms. Birch asked if the title of their organization was a play on words. Mr. Freedman confirmed.

Ms. Espinal stated that in their minutes they also wanted to purchase a car for the individual leaving the program which would cost \$20,000. She felt they should use the money to purchase the needed van.

Lorraine Wilby, Board Member, stated the minutes were from a Board meeting before Mr. Freedman was part of the organization. She stated that it had been decided to purchase the car because Richard Courtney, who had started the task force, had not taken a salary for five years and worked with Officer Russell for eight years previous to that.

Mr. Goetz stated that this organization served a great need in the community.

Girl Scouts of America

Monica Cupid stated that Girl Scouts was not just about selling cookies, but the building of courage and character, and each year they served over 9,000 girls, and of that number 1800 were from at risk areas. She explained further that 500 girls had been from Fort Lauderdale. She stated that last year they were disappointed that they had not received their requested funding, and therefore, fewer girls had been served. She believed that they provided unique adventures offering both fun and education. She stated that they had proven themselves regarding outcomes. She added that one of their girls had stated: "While I was a problem, my two older sisters were worse. My mom was too busy for me and I had no one. The Girl Scout Program gave me Ms. Edie, my mentor, who listened to me, cared about me, and always told me that I was special and not to give up. So I started not to give up. I started coming to school, and now I'm looking forward to it and I learned lots. I haven't been in a fight since I met Ms. Edie and she helped me to read and bring my grades up."

Ms. Cupid continued stating that this program gave at risk girls in this City the need to succeed and change their lives, and they are hoping that the City would be able to support them in funding this year.

Mr. Maymon asked what was the total number of girls in the program. Ms. Cupid stated that even though they had not received any funding last year, they were still able to serve 300 girls. In the past when they received funding, they had served 512 girls.

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Mr. Goetz asked how many Girls Scouts were in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Cupid stated there were almost 9,000 girls in the County, but she did not have the figures as to how many girls were located in this City. She added that they served girls between the ages of 5 to 17. She stated that other cities in the County had girls in the programs. She added that she had information available as to what was their revenue and expenses.

Ms. Espinal asked if the monies would be paying for activities and dues for the girls. Ms. Cupid explained that each child has to pay \$10 in dues, and many times parents cannot afford to pay that amount. Monies from the dues go to the National Headquarters in New York. The monies requested include dues, activities, and transportation. Ms. Espinal stated that it depended how much each city contributed as to which girls received the benefits. Ms. Cupid stated that last year funding was not received from this City, and they still were able to provide services to those girls by cutting back on the quantity. Ms. Espinal asked if referrals were received from schools. Ms. Cupid stated that many of the schools had referrals, but they had specialists that were assigned to specific areas identifying their needs. Ms. Espinal asked if schools permitted the girls to meet on their property. Ms. Cupid confirmed and stated that schools, parks and recreation centers, and churches had been very supportive. She added that the schools did charge a fee for using their rooms.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked how their organization was affected last year when they did not receive any funding. Ms. Cupid explained that she had seen a cutback on educational experiences and the number of girls served in the community. She believed that about 200 girls had not been served. She further explained that troop leaders were not readily obtained from the at-risk areas and individuals had to be hired as facilitators.

Mr. Goetz asked if they tracked the differences in violence and drop out rates among the girls turned down and the girls served. Ms. Cupid stated that they did not do that last year, but she would check and see if that had been done and such information could be provided to the Board.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked if they had received any additional funding last year. Ms. Cupid explained that they also received funds from some government grants and from other private foundations.

Second Chance Society

Pat Awend stated that she was the Founder of Second Chance and Program Director.

Bob Dennison explained that he was on the Board of Directors for Second Chance Society.

Ms. Awend stated that she was present two years ago and they had been told to return with their requests and to make sure they brought their outcomes. She added that they did not make a request last year because they did not have a good handle on their outcomes, but since that time they had gotten better. Clients were called and

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monitored and 62% indicated they had improved. She believed their record showed that the program was working. She explained that they only worked with individuals who wanted to improve their lives because they did not have the time, energy or money to help individuals who did not want to help themselves.

Ms. Awend further stated that their mission statement was that they wanted to give a second chance to the homeless and struggling individuals by providing moral encouragement and removing material barriers to self-sufficiency. She explained that this agency filled a gap and helped to provide the tools needed for the individuals to have a second chance. Their organization only has one paid employee and many volunteers. Monies were spent on helping individuals and not on salaries. Their audit showed that 87 cents per dollar went to helping people in need. They have existed for seven years and have helped 966 people as of this time. She stated that the need for this type of program was great and she hoped their request would be granted.

Mr. Goetz asked if individuals had been employed before coming to this organization. Ms. Awend stated that sometimes they had a job, but not always or didn't have the tools or clothing for that type of employment. She explained further that if the individual did not

have the promise of a job, they would not fund them. Mr. Goetz stated that this organization had done a great job with their outcome figures, and it appears they have done a great job.

Ms. Espinal asked if they worked in conjunction with referrals from other agencies. Ms. Awend stated that they had worked with about 70 different agencies such as the Broward Partnership For The Homeless, Salvation Army, and Women in Distress. She added that some half-way houses and churches also referred individuals to them. Ms. Espinal asked where they had gotten their model for their operation from. Ms. Awend stated that she got a group together to help individuals, and their organization started from that point. She explained that they wanted to find a need that was not being filled by the other existing agencies. Ms. Espinal asked further if they worked in conjunction with the Work Force Program. Ms. Awend stated they did not train people for interviews, but Work Force did refer individuals to their agency. She commented that the Broward Sheriff's Office referred many individuals to them.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked if they worked mainly with construction workers. Ms. Awend stated they worked with all types of people.

Mr. Goetz asked if they knew how many people who took vocational courses ended up with jobs. Ms. Awend stated that homeless individuals could attend vocational classes without charge in order to learn a new trade. She explained that letters were issued to the vocational centers to supply the student with whatever tools were needed, and then invoices were sent to their organization. Monies were never given directly to the students. In cases where letters could not be provided, a member of their organization would go shopping with the individual to purchase whatever was needed for the job. She stated that maybe 25% of the individuals they helped took vocational courses.

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Future Stars Youth Sports Association

Marcenia Woods stated that this program began as the ability to provide basketball programs for girls between the ages of 6 and 17. Over the past 14-16 years they have gone to co-ed travel basketball. The program is not only for sports and provides opportunities to build the characters of the boys and girls. Their program was created to increase self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-discipline.

Mr. Goetz asked how many children were served in this program. Ms. Woods stated that there could be as little as 10 children in the program, or as many as 40. During the last year, they serviced about 40-45 children, and this year there were about 20-25 children who attended on a continuous basis. She remarked that their scheduled was based on the funding they received. Mr. Goetz clarified that their program cost about \$250,000 per year. Ms. Woods explained that if they went to all tournaments and paid all expenses, the program could involve that amount of money. Mr. Goetz asked how many individuals received sports scholarships in this program. Ms. Woods stated that every girl for the last 3-6 years were either in college or preparing to enter college. She stated that she did not know how many of their children received sports scholarships. She further stated that if any student did receive a scholarship, it was because they had the understanding that they could do it all if they put their minds to it.

Mr. Priester asked if academics were supplied in this program, as well as sports. Ms. Woods stated that it was a combination of every aspect of life, including learning to cook, do laundry, and grocery shop. She explained that the basketball was what drew the children in. Mr. Priester asked where some of the students had visited. Ms. Woods stated they had been to the Bahamas via plane and ships, Pennsylvania, New Orleans, Alabama, and Georgia. Wherever tournaments were held so the players could be viewed by recruiters.

Ms. Birch asked if the Board could be provided information as to how many children had received scholarships in the last 3 years. Ms. Woods confirmed.

Mr. Goetz asked if this organization had supplied financial statements. Ms. Hayes stated they had not done so. Mr. Goetz asked if financial statements were a requirement if the organization had been in existence for a couple of years. Ms. Hayes confirmed.

Mr. Dial stated that he agreed that the successful outcome of an athletic program was not just children receiving scholarships, and he believed other data should be provided regarding academic successes and decrease in troubled situations.

Ms. Woods stated that their program was composed of 100% volunteers, and it was hard to put together all information, but they would do their best.

It was asked if any of the participants of their program were available to speak.

Cadeja Graham stated that this was her second year in the program and she improved a lot in school and kept out of trouble. She explained that she was planning on going to college and one possibility was Florida State.

Safety Water Instruction Means Safety Foundation

Matthew Berman, Director of S.W.I.M. Central for Broward County, stated he was also a member of S.W.I.M.'s Foundation Board which supported the County's Drowning Prevention Program for the last nine years. Their goal was to eliminate the loss of life of children through drowning. Drowning was not an accident and was 100% preventable. This Foundation had three main objectives which were:

1. Provide water safety education for all children in the County;
2. Help educate caregivers and parents of children; and
3. Provide a hotline for swim lessons.

This program provides water safety education classes in County schools in order to prevent drowning and near drowning. They provide ten 30-minute classes over a two-week period at no cost. It is a curriculum-based program taught by certified water safety instructors and lifeguards. The American Red Cross has deemed this course in accordance with the Department of Health. Last year they sent more than 3,245 children through the program, and taught more than 22,159 lessons. Not one child going through the program since 1999 had ended up as a drowning or near drowning victim.

Mr. Berman further stated that with the financial assistance being requested they would be able to reach an additional 800 children from various school zones. The funds would also provide for an additional five individuals to receive the certifications needed to teach. He added that the kids would be taken out of school and given the lessons, thereby not requiring parents to provide transportation. The funds also provide for summer camps and last year Swim Central sent over 26,000 children for lessons. He stated that they could do one of three things. One was to drain all pools. The second thing would be to deny access to every canal in the County. The last thing would be to teach every child water safety, along with educating parents. He added that this City was in competition with the cities of Miramar and Pompano Beach in regard to childhood drownings.

Ms. Birch asked if S.W.I.M. Central received financial aid from the Kiwanis Clubs. Mr. Berman stated that S.W.I.M. Central was created by the Kiwanis Club and known as Every Child's A Swimmer, but then Commissioner Reuben dove into this and merged the two. They have 41 contracts with vendors to supply instructions.

Mr. Goetz stated that in reading the application he had a problem deciphering the difference between S.W.I.M. Central and the S.W.I.M.'s Foundation. He asked for some further clarification. Mr. Berman explained that the S.W.I.M.'s Foundation was composed of elected and protected officials, and government employees, along with bankers who were the 501(c)3's for S.W.I.M. Central. If funding was granted to S.W.I.M. Central they would not be able to accept such funds because they were a County entity. Therefore, the foundation was created so grants could be sought, along with donations. He further explained that the foundation assisted in providing contractual services. He stated that 800 children could be helped with the funds being requested. He advised that the City of Fort Lauderdale taught the children under his direct supervision and the cost was covered by his office.

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Mr. Goetz asked how their program would prevent drownings for children under three years of age. Mr. Berman stated they were trying to get into the lower aged schools. Mr. Goetz asked how many children drown per year between the ages of 4 and 14 years. Mr. Berman provided a breakdown of the age groups. He remarked that presently about two children drown, but before the beginning of the program the number was about eight in the County. He believed one drowning was too many, and therefore, if they could reduce the number 50% or 100% that would be great.

Mr. Berman stated that there were parents here this evening who had lost children in drownings.

Ms. Espinal stated that she was confused about how things were being paid. She asked whose staff was teaching since the City was one of their vendors. Mr. Berman stated that the staff was composed of City employees, and they were paying for the lessons.

Mr. Priester clarified that the funds would pay for the lifeguards. Mr. Berman confirmed, but stated that the grant would not pay for transportation.

Ms. Birch explained that the lifeguards paid from S.W.I.M. Central were not on regular duty for the City. Mr. Berman added that they paid the School Board \$48 per hour for transportation. He added that e-mails are sent to 184 elementary schools and charters. It is a voluntary program and up to the principals to participate or not.

Mr. Goetz asked if this organization had submitted an audited financial statement. Mr. Berman stated that every dime they received had been spent. He was not sure if such statements had been submitted. He added that he had letters from some of the principals supporting this program. He invited everyone to come see the miracles happen.

Ms. Espinal stated that children between the ages of 0 to 4 years of age were drowning victims, and she asked how they would be able to reach that age group. Mr. Berman stated that they were going to launch a drowning campaign throughout the County. He was willing to teach that age group if asked. Ms. Espinal asked how they planned on reaching the parents of those children. Mr. Berman stated they have been in existence for over nine years and many fliers have been distributed. They are involved with 130 elementary schools.

Mr. Goetz asked how much an audit would cost. Mr. Berman stated that he did not know, but would check into it. Ms. Hayes explained that the cost of an audit depended on what all was involved and how much time was spent on it. Mr. Berman explained that it was not uncommon for organizations to not have audits done due to the expense involved.

Ms. Birch asked if the application requested that an audit be provided. Ms. Hayes proceeded to read from the application as follows: "The net assets and cash on hand for the applicant's organization. The net assets and cash on hand for your parent company. If applicable, provide income and expense financial statements for the last two years of your program for the organization and your parent company."

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Mr. Goetz asked if it was part of the checklist that the applicant was to provide financial statements. Ms. Hayes stated that the application also requested as follows: "List other financial commitments or matching grants if applicable." It also asked: "Will your organization provide financial assistance for the proposed program/project?"

Ms. Hayes stated that HUD did require a financial statement for every year which was a condition of the funding. She further explained that after funding was awarded, the applicant would be required to provide a financial statement and an audit on a yearly basis.

MEETING WAS PAUSED AT 8:49 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:58 P.M.

ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

Felix Cruz stated that he was Vice President of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc., and that David Martinez, Program Manager, was also present this evening, along with Kimberly Redman, a student at Stranahan High School.

Mr. Cruz stated that nationally this organization has been in existence since 1961, and in South Florida since 1981. He stated that their mantra was leadership through education with the mission to develop a better educated and more community conscious minority youth. Those individuals could then return to their community and give back. He announced that last week they had a walk-a-thon to raise money for leukemia.

Mr. Cruz continued stating that they were requesting funds in order to develop a new partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale. He explained that they operated their youth leadership development education achievement and drop out prevention programs and target academic minority youth. He stated that they had a partnership with the Broward County School system, and with other counties in the area. These schools allow their staff to have access to the students and parents and academic reports so the students could be better served. Clubs were organized in the schools for the students. Referrals were also received through the juvenile justice system. Homework assistance was provided and there was a one-on-one guidance and case management system. Another component of their program was the building of social skills. He explained that their flagship program was drop out prevention and high school completion, along with a college readiness program. Their ultimate goal was to get a student into college. Their objective was to improve attendance. He stated that 85% of their kids have improved behavior and 75% stay away from drugs. Last year they served 327 students in their Broward program. He added that out of 33 seniors in their program last year, 32 went on to higher education. He explained that the funds they were requesting total approximately \$998 per student.

Mr. Goetz asked how the students become a member of the club. Mr. Cruz stated that it was open enrollment and the students were encouraged to bring in new members. Mr. Goetz stated that this appeared to be a college prep program. Mr. Cruz stated that the end result was that and they could prove their figures because

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they have a very sophisticated MIS system which tracks all of the club members. He also stated that they assisted the students in obtaining financial aid and scholarship information, and assisted in filling out college applications. They also take the students on tours through colleges. He added that most of the students they work with probably would not have even seen high school graduation without being a part of their system. He reiterated that they helped at risk students stay in school and progress and develop their skills. He added that 50% of their students come in under the \$20,000 income level, and the other 50% come from large families. Most of the students qualify for financial aid and were first-generation college students.

Ms. Birch asked what ASPIRA meant. Mr. Cruz explained that it was taken from the infinitive to aspire and strive.

Mr. Maymon asked if the amount of \$998 per student meant that only 50 students would be accommodated in the amount they were requesting. Mr. Cruz stated that it would be for the entire fiscal year. Mr. Maymon asked who served as the youth advisors. Mr. Cruz explained that those advisors were college graduates that were trained for this type of program. One advisor would cover two schools. Meetings were held at the school once a week, and the advisors met individually with the students after school, including home visits. Mr. Maymon asked about the salary for the advisors. Mr. Cruz stated that they were paid \$34,000. He explained that the monies being requested would cover an MIS person and part of an advisor's salary. He advised that they only had about \$5,000 for operational funds. Most of the monies received go back into programs with little going into administrative costs.

Ms. Espinal asked if students could go to this group instead of being suspended or being home alone. Mr. Cruz confirmed and stated that they had a good relationship with the school principals. Ms. Espinal asked if they also went to the middle schools. Mr. Cruz confirmed and stated they tried to establish a feeder pattern. Ms. Espinal asked what work did they do with the Haitian community. Mr. Cruz explained that they were not particularly located within the Haitian community, but had Haitian students in the program. He stated that they operated out of the Miramar Civic Center. Ms. Espinal asked if parental requirement was needed in order for the children to participate in the program. Mr. Cruz explained that parents had to sign to let the children participate. An individualized education program was prepared for each student which the parent had to sign off on that established the student's goals for the year and for their life. He further explained that the school provided such services on a counseling basis, but their program was more of a guidance tool. He also stated that they held conferences and prevention activities.

Ms. Birch asked when a student was suspended from school did they take that student and work with them. Mr. Cruz stated that he used to work with the Broward School System, and confirmed that they worked with those students. He further stated that in some schools they worked with the internal suspension teacher. Ms. Birch asked if they had established this program at New River. Mr. Cruz confirmed, but stated that they were attempting to get one started at Stranahan.

Kimberly Redman, student, stated that she has been a part of this program for the last six years. She stated that this program provided her the opportunity to be a

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leader and if it wasn't for this organization she would not be in front of this Board today.

Mr. Cruz explained that they also ran an outreach program in the evenings for students who did not have a club located at their schools.

Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of Hispanics belonging to their clubs would be considered as college prep students. Mr. Cruz stated there were few such students. He reiterated that in theory they were not a college prep program. They did not prepare students academically for college, but wanted to point them in that direction. Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of Hispanics belonged to one of their clubs. Mr. Cruz stated that he did not have that information available, but that their clubs consisted of about 60% Hispanic students. He added that they had other minority students.

Mr. Priester asked how the City of Fort Lauderdale would be affected by this program if they were based out of Miramar. Mr. Cruz stated that the City of Miramar had donated for the last 12 years office space for them. The funds being requested would only be used for students of Fort Lauderdale. He reiterated that their organization was pretty eclectic.

Russell Life Skills and Reading Foundation

Twan Russell stated that this foundation has been in existence for almost 10 years. Basically, they consider themselves a bridge between the family, the schools, and the students. In 1999 he and his mother designed the program and patterned it after their home. He explained that they were not a homework organization. They break down the reading process so children can learn to read and comprehend. He stated that recently they had a student from their program have a perfect score on the reading portion of the FCATs. He explained that they had 45 to 52 teachers, and have seven site locations throughout Broward and Dade Counties. He stated that Osswald Park was the first site for their program. They were requesting funds now for ESE children who were exceptional students which would require pull-out teachers.

Mr. Russell explained that they did not have a school setting, and attempted to find out the best way for a child to learn. They were about a 1-10 ratio of teachers per students. From pre-K to third grade they want to get the ratio down to 1-5.

Mr. Goetz asked if all high school students were required to take the FCATs. Mr. Russell stated that he did not believe everyone had to take them.

Mr. Priester stated that 3rd, 6th and 10th were the retention years, but the tests were taken every year up to 10th grade. After that, if they had not passed they had two more years to try again. Everyone had to take them in the public schools.

Mr. Goetz stated that not all of their participants had taken the tests, and therefore, their proficiency rate was not a true comparison.

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Ms. Birch clarified that this group did not give the actual FCAT test to the students. All parents did not share their child's test results with this group. She further added that some of the parents did not even know their child's score or did not understand the information that was provided to them. She added that if students were turned away from this program because parents had not shared their scores, the child would be the loser.

Ms. Espinal asked how they recruited the students. Mr. Russell stated that was the easiest part of what they did and that they partnered with various municipalities.

Mr. Priester asked if any of their students went to A or F schools. Mr. Russell stated that the students feeding into Osswald Park were from either D or F schools.

Ms. Espinal stated that they were actually supplementing after school programs. Mr. Russell confirmed.

Mr. Goetz asked if there were any other remedial programs available in the area. Mr. Russell stated that he was not sure if other programs ran in the same degree as their program. He further stated that many schools received funds and provided after school services to their students, but they did it in connection with the FCATs. He explained that their program took less funds than what schools paid for an SES Program, and that their program focused on reading which helped a student do better on a test. He explained that they used many types of tests to monitor their students.

Ms. Birch stated that there was no other program in the County similar to this program.

Mr. Russell explained that their services were free, and the last 30 minutes of their program focused on homework. They believe if a student could read, they would be able to change their life. He stated that their program provided consistency and they only used certified teachers. He explained that they also used speech therapists, along with reading specialists.

Covenant House

Jim Gress, Executive Director of Covenant House Florida, stated they had been funded for the last two years. He continued stating that they were part of an international organization that was originally formed in New York in 1969 serving runaways and homeless young people. They expanded beyond New York and opened in Florida in 1985. They operate a 104 bed crisis shelter on the beach and a 48 bed facility in Orlando which was opened about 10 years. They serve these types of adolescents under the age of 21. They operated on a 24/7 basis and provided a safe environment for young people. Their first goal was to see if individuals could be returned to their families. This was not an option in reality for most of the individuals they dealt with, particularly for people ranging in the age from 18 to 20 who were defined as adults. The program they were asking this Board to support was called Life Skills, Life Enrichment, and Job Readiness Program which would help serve that group of individuals.

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Mr. Gress explained that this program was broken into three sub-categories. One was job readiness because most of the people coming to them had little or no track records of employment. The second portion of the project consisted of life skills, and the third part of the program was the educational component which had two focuses. One was a school that was on their site which was licensed and provided by the Broward County School Board through their Pine Ridge Alternative Program. Another portion of the program was for individuals 18 and over that had not completed high school and could participate in a GED Program.

Mr. Gress stated that they were proposing to serve 750 young people in the course of the year. This was the same number of individuals as proposed for the current contract year. They expect to exceed the 750 number this year. The expansion on this project involved the hiring of another part-time position to the program. They provide service five days a week, but is a seven day operation and open 24 hours. With the new addition, the program could be expanded and classes could be offered seven days per week.

Mr. Maymon asked how many children lived at the facility. Mr. Gress stated that the number varied day-to-day. This morning they were at 95 with a capacity of 104 beds which includes parents and infants. He added that the total cost per person was \$167.17 based upon the entire cost of the project.

Ms. Espinal asked if their facility provided mental health personnel to counsel the individuals. Mr. Gress explained that in 1990 they implemented their own substance abuse treatment program licensed by the State consisting of a six-week residential treatment program complete with after-care. They have three clinicians and a clinical director on their staff. Some involve case management and some involve in-depth counseling. No medications were prescribed and there was no psychiatrist on staff. Henderson Mental Health Center and Health Care for the Homeless were the facilities they utilized in such cases. Ms. Espinal asked if they assisted the individuals in getting to those facilities. Mr. Gress confirmed. Ms. Espinal asked if they provided for relapse prevention. Mr. Gress again confirmed and stated it was part of their substance abuse program. The program was based on a 12-step model. He added that they also operated a transitional housing program consisting of two phases. One is on site which is supervised 24/7 that is a heavy skill-based program. Once the individual demonstrates that they had the capacity to implement such skills, they would be moved into an apartment that would be available to them for one year with subsidized rent.

Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of individuals that took the GED classes end up getting degrees. Mr. Gress stated that he could not answer that question in the long term, and could only speak about the children taking the test with them. In 2006/2007 88% of the people participating in the program received educational services which meant they attended the on-site school. He reiterated that he could not say for sure how many end up at some point getting their GED. He emphasized that their facility was a short term one for many of the individuals.

Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of individuals who participated in their job training program were hired. Mr. Gress stated that in 2006/2007 they showed that 74% of the people coming into the project that had been unemployed were hired or received

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skills relating to employment. He added that they did not have a way to track individuals once they left the program.

Mr. Goetz asked what was meant by 40% leaving the crisis shelter for a stable living environment. Mr. Gress explained that could mean a family member or other relative or even their own apartment. Mr. Goetz asked what percent of homeless children end up in that situation in communities that did not have such a program. Mr. Gress stated that he did not have any national statistics, but when they were looking to open up a facility in Orlando, their research showed that there were 300 to 400 young people per day on the streets in that area.

Ms. Espinal asked if some of the young people were the result of foster care. Mr. Gress confirmed and stating that some were aging out of the program. He added that they still heard from individuals who had been in their program and were successful today.

Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation

Rosby Glover, Acting Executive Director of Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation, stated that they were founded in 1993 due to the overrepresentation of minorities in the Juvenile Justice System. Their first program was called Teen Alliance with Clergy formed to stop such overrepresentation and was a counseling in-home program. In visiting those homes, they discovered many times that it was the parents who had the issues. Therefore, other programs were developed and now they run all types of programs to aid the families. Today, he was presenting the Neighborhood Empowerment and Sub-sufficiency Program which was designed to reach clients in the 33311 zip code of this City who were between the ages of 18 to 55. Information and referral services would be provided, along with employment preparation and placement, and workshops. Computer skills training, job readiness workshops, life management skills, public transportation assistance, as well as financial assistance for child care.

Mr. Glover continued stating that they were proposing to hire a project director, case manager and computer instructor part-time. They were requesting \$82,000 which averaged to serve 1200 individuals at \$68.35 per person.

Mr. Priester asked if this facility worked with particular companies in regard to job placement.

Mr. Glover stated that their office was included in that zip code and they intended to contact major companies for partnerships.

Ms. Espinal asked if their clients were referrals. Mr. Glover explained that their best referral service was word of mouth. He added that they would utilize Work Force One and other such agencies. Ms. Espinal asked if they were at capacity or was there room for expansion at their facility. Mr. Glover stated that all of their programs were different and anyone meeting the criteria for children or families in need of services would be assisted. They were not always at capacity and no one was ever turned down.

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Mr. Goetz asked if their organization ever received funds from this group in the past. Mr. Glover confirmed. Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of the funds had been spent per year. Mr. Glover stated that they spent 100% of the funds they received. Mr. Goetz asked how much their organization received for their programs from this City. Mr. Glover stated that they received \$60,000 for the Family Resource Center. He explained that they were a pass-thru for the City and funds did not go directly to their organization. In that case the monies went to the childcare facility. Mr. Goetz stated that in their back-up materials it was stated that 75% of all referrals would secure employment within six months, and the other 25% within one year. Mr. Glover stated that some referrals were employed but they wanted to increase their opportunities. He reiterated that everyone coming through their program would have the opportunity to receive employment. Mr. Goetz asked what they expected as the end result of their program. Mr. Glover stated that their outcome was 80%.

Ms. Espinal asked if they made direct contact with companies to arrange employment. Mr. Glover confirmed and stated they would do that if this program received funding. Now, they attempt to refer individuals to companies. He believed it was more advantageous to make the personal connections with the businesses.

Mr. Goetz asked who did their audit reports. Mr. Glover explained that Watson and Company did their reports who were based in Miami. Mr. Goetz asked why a formal report had not been submitted. Mr. Glover stated they had drafts and a letter, but he would get the needed reports to the Board.

First Call For Help

Steve Strickland, their representative, stated that 211 Broward could be dialed 24/7. Information and referrals were provided to community resources within the County, and last year they received over 37,000 calls from Fort Lauderdale residents seeking such services. Over 40% of those calls needed help regarding basic needs. The 211 number serves as a gateway for individuals to learn how to access needed services. They were the County's only 24 hours crisis line. He stated that this City produced the highest volume of calls received every year, and they expect a 3% increase in the next year. He added that they provided check-in calls for the elderly and teen tapes for adolescents seeking assistance before calling the help line.

Mr. Goetz asked if they received any feedback from the agencies they made referrals to. Mr. Strickland stated that they did ask for feedback on a yearly basis. Mr. Goetz asked if they kept track of how many referrals they made to various agencies. Mr. Strickland confirmed and stated that a monthly report was produced. It was stated that there should be better collaboration among all agencies with 211 Broward.

Mr. Maymon asked if there were any changes in the dynamics of their organization from last year. Mr. Strickland stated that a new service offered in January was the Homeless Help Line. Mr. Maymon further asked if they could quantify how much additional money would be required to run the program. Mr. Strickland stated that he did not have that information. Mr. Maymon stated that he asked the question because it appeared they had \$20,000 left from last year. Mr. Strickland stated that in the previous year they had spent all the funds they received from CDBG.

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Mr. Goetz asked when was their fiscal year. Mr. Strickland stated that it depended on the funding source.

Ms. Hayes remarked that this organization had six months left in their fiscal year.

Ms. Espinal stated that she did not think this was a crisis line. Mr. Strickland confirmed that it was a 24-hour suicide prevention crisis intervention hotline. All counselors were highly trained specialists. Ms. Espinal asked if 1-800-FLA-Love still existed. Mr. Strickland stated that he did not know if such a number was in their database since they had over 3,000 programs and 600 agencies. He reiterated that if a person has a negative experience when calling their hotline, it was his responsibility to make sure to speak with the counselor in order that appropriate services were being provided. He added that the caller was asked at the end of the conversation whether the information provided had been helpful. They had a 96% response rate from the callers that they had a positive experience.

Mr. Goetz stated that HUD had stated that all 211s were to be eligible for general operating support on the presumption that they served low to moderate income individuals, and therefore, how many other groups had received such a designation.

Mr. Strickland stated that he had been a volunteer in Louisiana after Hurricane Wilma at a 211 Center, and information was provided to all individuals on how to access needed services.

Ms. Hayes stated that the only other mandate they received from HUD was to actively support the faith-based initiatives.

Mr. Maymon asked what process was followed if an elderly person was called for the daily check-in and they did not respond. Mr. Strickland explained that they would make three attempts to reach the individual, and then they would call an emergency contact number that was provided. If they were not able to get the status from an emergency contact, they would call the Police Department to do a welfare check on a senior. Mr. Maymon suggested that they advertise this service more because many seniors were not aware of the availability of such a service. Mr. Strickland stated that Touch Line sponsored by United Way used to provide this service, but they were no longer in existence. They provide this service to approximately 200 seniors daily.

Lighthouse For The Blind

Elly du Pre stated that she was the Executive Director of the Lighthouse For The Blind, and thanked the Board for funding them this past year. She explained that this was the Lighthouse On The Move Program whereby they reached out and provided services to an individual in their home or at a Senior Center or similar situation for individuals over the age of 65 who were blind or visually impaired. They based their program on the fact that national research showed that success in teaching people was bringing a role model or atmosphere of mentorship to individuals in the same type of situation. Often times visually impaired individuals had other physical conditions or disabilities. Their often goal was to have grandparents restored to their proper role in the family. Society needs people of all ages to contribute to it.

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Mr. Goetz asked how many individuals had been helped last year. Ms. du Pre stated that they hoped to help 30 individuals who were completely homebound. She added that over the last five years not one person who they served had ended up in a nursing home. Mr. Goetz asked if they had ever turned anyone away due to not having sufficient funds available. Ms. du Pre stated they had not run into that situation. She further stated that she's only been with the organization for three years, but when she first arrived there in checking the demographics she felt they were not truly serving the range of people living in this County, and she felt the reason was because individuals had to get to their facility. Mr. Goetz asked if they intended to track the success of their program. Ms. du Pre confirmed and explained that they had recently received a special grant to acquire a database system specifically developed for non-profits. One of the key elements of the system was that it helps to track outcomes without being laborious.

Ms. du Pre added that their cash on hand provided for a three-month period cushion. She explained further that she is just four months into the award monies.

Mr. Maymon asked what the funds would be used for. Ms. du Pre stated that she would pay bills and staff, and the fund raising was on a different cycle. She remarked that they served over 400 people per year. She expects this service to become their largest. She remarked that they taught individuals independent living skills. She added that they did not raise the dogs or train them. She remarked that many of their clients were volunteers at other places. They also taught safe-meal preparation and financial awareness. She added that the reason for establishing this program was so they could reach out to more low income individuals.

McCombeian Foundation

Dr. Paul McCombe, President and Founder, stated they were incorporated in January, 2008. He stated that he wrote a book and argued that there were two factors why there was an achievement gap. One was a mismatch in linguistic structure and a mismatch of linguistic function. He published "*The Social Linguistic Nature For The Academic Achievement Gap.*" In order to close the achievement gap, they needed to teach inner city children language arts. He structured the Russell Life Program to teach reading not through the language process but through language arts. He remarked that language arts and phonetics contradicted each other. He is in the process of publishing his own reading series to teach the children via grammar.

Dr. McCombe stated that he structured his foundation to do two things. One was to prove that he was right academically, and to donate his reading series to non-profits. The majority of his students come from the 33311 area and Lauderhill. He added that no one else was doing what he proposed. He stated that there was not only an achievement gap, especially in reading, but gets worse as the children get older.

Ms. Birch asked where the program would be located. Dr. McCombe stated it would be located at the St. George Community Center, and the children would come from Dillard Elementary, St. George, and schools in that area. Ms. Birch asked why the City of Lauderhill was not funding their program. Dr. McCombe stated that they were seeking funds from the City of Lauderhill as well, but they did not use their CDBG

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funding for this type of program. They had an education fund instead. Ms. Birch asked what area in Ft. Lauderdale would this group serve. Dr. McCombe stated that his program was not exclusive to the St. George Community Center because 51% of the children must be from the Fort Lauderdale area in accordance with the CDBG rules. He remarked that they were looking to recruit children in the 33311 area, and presently there were 80 students on the waiting list. He reiterated that the grant monies would serve the children in the Fort Lauderdale area.

Mr. Goetz asked for further clarification of the statement made by Dr. McCombe in connection with the FCATs. Dr. McCombe stated that based on his research the FCAT scores would be increased. Mr. Goetz asked how his program differed from the Russell Program. Dr. McCombe stated they now had their own curriculum and books. He explained that there was nowhere in literature where it suggests that there was a direct correlation between teachers and student achievement. If there was, there would not be a gap. He stated that many after school programs could not afford to use certified teachers, and therefore, anyone could purchase the books and teach the child through the system. He stated they were going to use certified teachers. He added that the Russell Life Program did not differ from his program if they used his books.

Mr. Goetz asked why should this Board fund his program instead of the Russell program. Dr. McCombe because currently they were not using his materials.

Ms. Birch asked about the rationale followed regarding the structure of the Pre-K book. Dr. McCombe stated the line spacing was determined by the publisher and were suitable for Kindergarten students.

Mr. Goetz asked if this program was considered a research program. Dr. McCombe confirmed and stated there was a control group and had one when he started working with the Russell group.

Mr. Maymon stated his vote to contribute \$1 to his program would probably be hypocritical to the foundation because he considered himself a capitalist. He asked if the document provided was Dr. McCombe's dissertation. Dr. McCombe stated he was a trained structural Marxist philosopher. Mr. Maymon stated that in theory he supported the proposed program, but in the future he would think Dr. McCombe should be more careful on the materials he distributes to the public. He stated that one aspect of Marx's philosophy that no one refutes is that there is an ever increasing level of poverty in the world.

Ms. Espinal stated that she was concerned this was located in the St. George area which was not in the City of Fort Lauderdale, and that the children were getting cut off from their potential because they are not learning to speak eloquently. She did not know if this program would teach children to read adequately so they could represent themselves later on in life. Dr. McCombe stated that this was the essence of his article because inner city children grow up speaking black vernacular. He reiterated that there was no connection between black vernacular and achievement in today's society. Therefore, effort in school appeared to be deterred. They did teach standard English so children could read better. He was aware that they had to maintain a 51%

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area requirement. He stated that St. George was the base, but they had other feeder areas where the students would come from.

Mr. Preister asked what research based meant. Dr. McCombe explained that the article was theoretical that critiqued two ideas from the society, and then data was offered from the Russell Foundation which he had collected to show the correlations. The third article showed the mismatch of linguistic functions. All articles would be provided.

Cross Road Food Bank

Don Adams, President, stated that when people helped people in unity multitudes could be helped which was what it was all about.

Diane Fiala stated that she did the development work for this group and thanked for the grant awarded to them last year. They were requesting monies for an expanded program for food and produce distribution for the next year in the amount of \$49,000. She added that they were growing rapidly and there had been a 69% increase in the number of applicants for the pantry and the food bank which they ran. They expect this percentage to increase in the next six months. This County had a great hunger problem.

Ms. Fiala explained that they began in 2002 and had about 1600 clients for the food pantry, and they expect to serve 190 to 200 clients in this City per month. There were 108 agencies in their food bank who helped and they were serving 10 Fort Lauderdale agencies who served approximately 704 people per month. They also expect those numbers to rise. She stated they have been able to help all individuals in need and they did not have a waiting list. They were unique in that it was their founder's idea to give enough food for three balanced meals per day for 14 days every month. They also gave out referrals for other types of assistance that might be needed. They also collaborated with other agencies in helping individuals. They were the largest contributing member to the CCB Meals Committee and a member of the Steering Committee which was composed of 65 agencies committed to eradicating hunger. They worked with 33 referral agencies, along with some private agencies.

Ms. Fiala stated their goal was for the pantry to help individuals to become self-sufficient. They estimate that 30 of the clients they serve from this City would become self-sufficient by the end of the fiscal year. She remarked that 45% of the clients they serve were disabled and 55% were seniors and could stay with them for an indefinite period of time.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked if all their food was donated. Ms. Fiala stated that a majority of the food was donated, but they also purchased truckloads of food.

Mr. Adams stated that the million pounds of donated produce increased their overhead, but their goal was to feed everyone in need.

Ms. Espinal asked how many days per week were they open. Mr. Adams stated that they were opened five days per week and he volunteered about 70 hours per week. Ms. Espinal asked if individuals had to listen to a sermon before receiving their food.

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Mr. Adams stated that was not the case, but if they wanted counseling it was available. Ms. Espinal asked how the level of need was established. Mr. Adams explained that certain documents had to be produced. He added that an FP&L bill was required because the food had to be refrigerated.

Mr. Goetz stated that this program was the most amazingly successful program and he hoped they would keep up the good work.

Ms. Fiala stated that photographs had been submitted showing the people getting the food.

Broward Homebound

Diane Smith, Executive Director, stated that she wanted to thank this Board for their recommendation for funding for the past three years. Their agency provided in-home services to the elderly and disabled adults throughout Broward County. They had three programs. The first program was the Subsidy Program, and the second was a State funded program known as the "Community Care for Disabled Adults" which served permanently disabled adults ages 18 to 59. There was a waiting list for that program of 427 individuals. This program helps individuals live independently. Out of the 427 clients on the waiting list 67 are Fort Lauderdale residents.

Ms. Smith stated that they were requesting funding for the Home Delivered Meals Program for these individuals. Last year they served 158 Broward County residents with 54 of them from Fort Lauderdale. The number of disabled adults served through this City was the highest percentage of clients they served of the municipalities. She advised that 99% of their clients had been able to live independently due to the linkages provided by their organization, and 91% of their client who received delivered meals reported that either their medical conditions had stabilized or improved. She reiterated that the waiting list for State funded programs and for their other funding sources would increase. Funds were needed now more than ever.

Ms. Espinal asked if this was related to Meals On Wheels. Ms. Smith stated the program she was requesting funding for was Meals On Wheels for individuals 18 to 59 years of age. The senior Meals On Wheels Program was also very successful. She explained that their individuals were not eligible for that program until they reached 60 years of age. She stated that they had been doing the home delivered meal program since 1991. She explained that the Meals On Wheels Program was a Federally funded program.

Mr. Goetz asked if the \$186,000 figure for the project included the total cost for the residents living in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith stated that the total cost for the meals for the 25 City residents would cost \$36,400. The other meals were for residents in other parts of the County. She reiterated that these were projected costs, and that they applied to United Way for \$58,000, but received \$44,000. She explained that they were actively seeking other grants.

Mr. Goetz asked if the cost was more than \$1,000 per person per year. Ms. Smith explained that the cost per person was \$1456 per person for an entire year which was a total of \$4.00 per meal. She reiterated that the cost of gasoline was also

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causing a problem. She added that the meals had been delivered every week, but now were being delivered every two weeks. She explained that they subcontracted for the meals through three meal providers that the Meals On Wheels used.

Mr. Goetz asked what was the mortality for people on the waiting list compared to people in their program. Ms. Smith stated that unfortunately the Community Care For Disabled Adults, a State funded program, used to be managed by them but the State now has the Department of Children and Family manage such waiting lists. They did not even know the names of the clients on the list and only know what cities they live in. She stated that the Community Care For Disabled Adults has opened 19 new cases since July 1st. She assumed that the death rate was high for those individuals on the waiting list.

Ms. Espinal asked if this food program was the only source of food for these individuals. Ms. Smith stated that the program meets one-third of the RDA which was the requirement, and if the clients have no one else to help, their case managers would access different food banks to obtain the food. She reiterated that anyone who wanted to give their clients food, they would go and access the food.

Mr. Goetz stated that the problem was that they could not serve more people not because they could not obtain the food, but that they could not pay the administrative costs to obtain the food. Ms. Smith explained that they did not have enough funds to purchase the home delivered meals. Their administrative costs only totaled 10%. Mr. Goetz asked if food was given to them for the other two-thirds could the meals be delivered and could the individuals use the food. Ms. Smith stated that the clients could use the food, but the problem was how to deliver it. They only had one case manager for the home delivered meals program, and two full time case managers for the Community Care For Disabled Adults Program. If volunteers were used that could be a possibility. She explained further that there was a gray area about food and having it delivered expeditiously, and that was why there was a better success rate with non-perishable food.

Com Serv

Norman Powell stated that he was proposing a project for a Community Mobile Health Unit. He stated that he wanted to reach into the community and have an effect on it. The most critical health disparity faced today was that of HIV and AIDS. It was estimated that 1 Million people in the US were HIV positive, and 40% were unaware that they had HIV. He explained that 56% of new infections were among teenagers. He explained that it was difficult to find a site to do HIV testing free of charge or that did not require a referral from a physician. He stated that they set up a mobile unit off school property to do the testing. He remarked that the first day they set up 75 students came to be tested and only 45 had been tested. He added that another site was located and 200 students came to be tested, and again they only were able to test 68 students.

Mr. Powell stated that Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, and Broward Counties were the top five counties in the nation with AIDS cases. It was estimated that every hour of a day two teenagers became infected. He explained further that they wanted to establish a community mobile health unit to be able to handle the capacity needed for testing.

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He stated that the times offered to test teens by the Broward County Health Department were not conducive or practical times. He found that many times when the teens did show up at the centers during the required times, the center was closed due to a shortage of staff.

Mr. Powell further stated that such screening units resulted in the reduction of HIV infections and other health disparities among populations of the underprivileged and under served. He advised that they also would provide a testing for adults. They also expect to increase the number of referrals to other agencies for other related health services by 50%.

Mr. Maymon asked if when giving blood an individual was checked for HIV. Mr. Powell stated that was not done and that was how the blood supply becomes infected.

Ms. Espinal stated that there had been an STV Center on 16th Street before SR 441. Mr. Powell stated that the location was not on the list given to him. He added that testing could be done at the Health Department, but a number was given to call and no one appears to get through. A problem was also transportation to get to that location. Ms. Espinal stated that Mr. Powell did not appear to be a licensed physician. Mr. Powell stated that one did not have to be a doctor to do HIV testing. He advised that one was trained by the Health Department.

Mr. Powell stated that he has been in this business since the early '90's and had done a lot of research on the matter. He stated that he was the consultant for the Broward County School Board and trained all peer educators in HIV prevention. He stated that he had appeared before this Board for five years talking about HIV and AIDS and never received any funds.

Mr. Goetz asked how many individuals out of the 68 tested had come up positive. Mr. Powell stated that none came up positive. There was a testing done before that which showed positive results and led to this second testing. He stated that there were units for sale. Mr. Goetz asked if Mr. Powell had contacted any of the other mobile units in regard to seeing what their operating costs involved. Mr. Powell stated that he knew his operating costs, and the problem was that he was different from the other units. Those units could not meet the needs of the communities and appointments had to be made. He would go into the areas and provide the testing opportunities on a regular basis.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked if his testing cost the same as the other units. Mr. Powell explained that the Health Department would provide all the testing units for free and brochures and materials would be handed out, plus staff needed to do the testing. He reiterated that his units would be testing a higher volume of individuals.

Ms. Hayes announced that this was the end of the presentations.

CDBG 2008/2009 Ranking System

Ms. Hayes stated that she had distributed the original ranking system, along with the proposed changes. Those changes include comments from Mr. Goetz and Ms. Birch.

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She advised that Mr. Antoine stated that he did not feel the application should be changed. If no other comments were received from this Board by this coming Friday, staff would make the adjustments and move forward.

Good of the Order

Ms. Hayes stated that next month's meeting time would be needed regarding funding recommendations. She advised that they had \$278,000 to distribute and every agency had a specific need. She stated that Fort Lauderdale was one of the five highest areas of foreclosures in Broward County. Everyone could not be helped, and therefore, they could only help the individuals at the low end. She stated the Board could begin making their notes on the current ranking system so that when they came to the next meeting, the members would have an idea of what they wanted to do.

Other Business

Mr. Goetz stated that they needed to assure that a quorum would be present at the next meeting.

Ms. Hayes stated that they followed up with everyone before the meetings.

Chair Michael Kimmey reminded everyone that an issue arose last year regarding who would be eligible of the Board members to fill out the ranking forms. Ms. Hayes advised that eight members would be needed to fill out the forms. She also stated that the new member appointed did not receive a booklet as of this time, but had stated that he wanted to participate in the process. He was a dentist by profession and was delayed up north.

Chair Michael Kimmey remarked that there had been one incomplete package in connection with tonight's presentations.

Ms. Hayes explained that HUD required audited financial statements once a funding decision was made.

Chair Michael Kimmey asked if Future Youth Stars could still be considered. Ms. Hayes stated that they had audited financial statements and they had received monies in the past.

Motion made by Mr. Priester and seconded by Ms. Birch to adjourn the meeting. Board unanimously approved.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,
Recording Secretary