

APPROVED

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING April 13, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.

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

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Board Members</u> <u>Cumulative</u> <u>From 10/09</u>	
			<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Marjorie Davis		A	0	6
William Goetz	P		6	0
Michael Kimmey	P		5	1
Avery Dial	P		6	0
Margaret Birch	P		5	1
Emmett Kater	P		4	2
P.J. Espinal	P		5	1
David Maymon	P		6	0
Christopher Priester	P		4	2
James Currier	P		6	0
Nadia Locke	P		5	1
Kevin Hull	P		3	3
Donald Karney	P		6	0
Helen Hinton	P		1	0

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present:

Angelia Basto, Administrative Support
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Community Development Manager
Jonathan Brown, Manager of the Housing and Community Development Department
David Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair David Maymon called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present this evening.

Board and Staff Introductions

Ms. Batchelder introduced Helen Hinton as a new member of this Board.

Ms. Batchelder proceeded to introduce staff who was present at tonight's meeting.

Jonathan Brown, Manager of the Housing and Community Development Department, was introduced to the Board. He is responsible for all entitlement grant programs.

Mr. Kater stated that Mr. Brown was brought in from the outside, and he asked why in-house staff did not fill the position. Ms. Batchelder stated that the position was filled through the recruitment process, and they were very pleased with the outcome.

Approval of Minutes

March 9, 2009

Motion made by Mr. Kater and seconded by Mr. Dial to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 Community Services Board meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Goetz and Ms. Locke entered the meeting at approximately 6:42 p.m.

CDBG 2009/2010 Applicant Project Presentation

Ms. Batchelder advised that available funds totaled \$220,000, and 22 applications have been received.

Mr. Brown stated that the requests received total over \$857,000. They have grouped applicants into six different categories which were:

- Youth-Related Programs
- Special Needs (Disabled and Elderly Adults)
- Emergency Food and Shelter
- Housing Counseling
- Economic Development
- Other

Mr. Brown stated that in order to make sure they meet all of HUD's monitoring and compliance requirements, they recommend that this Board choose a top organization within the six categories.

Ms. Birch stated that over the years requests have been made by the same organizations, and based on how the Board's ranking information was compiled, many of those organizations scored very high. Therefore, she was asking that regardless of years such groups received a grant should they still select a top-ranked organization from the categories as provided. Mr. Brown confirmed.

Mr. Kater stated that the applicants still needed to clarify the use for the funds being requested. Mr. Brown clarified that the applications were not in any particular order, and the Board still needed to rank them.

Ms. Batchelder explained the procedure that would be followed this evening regarding the presentations. It was decided at the last meeting that the applicants would be placed in alphabetical order, but the Board's rankings would determine the placement of each on the ranking sheet.

Aspira of Florida, Inc.

Felix Cruz, Vice President and Chief Development Officer of Aspira of Florida, Inc., proceeded to introduce Sandra Sanchez, Director of the Broward Operations for Aspira of Florida. The organization was created in 1981. With the requested funds, they want to target two out-reach programs at the New River Middle School and at Stranahan High School, where they would implement the curriculum. Referrals would be received from guidance counselors and school administrators, and also from juvenile justice personnel and other community representatives. Students that were failing or had discipline problems were targeted for these programs. Home visits would be made so that the entire family could be involved, and then an assessment would be made to see whether they needed other wrap-around services. He explained that last year their program had a 92% success rate, and 98% of the graduates they assisted went on to higher education. From their progress reports, it was determined that 85% of their students would improve their behavior and attendance. Their budget for the program is \$49,000, which includes funds for the hiring of another counselor, workshops for students, and purchasing supplies for the program.

Mr. Cruz was asked to clarify what was involved as part of a daily routine for a student. Mr. Cruz proceeded to explain the assessment made of each student, and the procedure followed.

Mr. Kater stated that the funds being requested appear to be for staff and other administrative operations. Mr. Cruz advised that most of the funds would be used for costs of personnel. He further explained that other costs associated with their program was covered through matching funds. Their organization is comprised of 200 members of staff. He explained that Stranahan High School does not presently have such a program, and the principal has requested their organization to work with their students.

Mr. Goetz asked if Mr. Cruz was aware of any case control studies that match the various components of their programs. Mr. Cruz stated that it was difficult to measure some of the aspects of their programs, especially the prevention aspect. He was not sure what the comparison would be in connection with organizations with similar programs.

Broward Homebound

Sharon Ross, Executive Director, stated that they were requesting \$30,420 to provide in-home supportive services to elderly and disabled adults (18-59) through their agency's subsidized program. These funds would act as a subsidy based on a sliding fee scale for all clients. The average cost for one person was \$7.00 per hour. The goal of this program was to enable disabled adults and the elderly to remain in the community, thereby preventing premature and inappropriate institutionalization. The subsidy program's provision of in-home services addresses a need for affordable care allowing the disabled adult and the elderly to live independently, while enjoying an improved quality of life. These services make a significant impact on the health and status of such individuals. They want to serve 26 clients providing 3 hours of in-home services per week for one year. The cost for a full year per

person was \$1,170. None of the funds being requested would be used towards staff. During the last year, their agency service 841 unduplicated clients, and of that number 574 were disabled. This City had the highest representation of clients served by their program totaling 139 residents, which represented 16.4% of their total clients. Their program serves 27 cities in Broward County. The second highest city served involved 76 residents, which represented 8.9%.

Ms. Ross stated that last year they provided 3,554 homemaker services, 2,699 personal care services, 4,060 respite care, 529 adult day healthcare, and 12,724 meals to the residents of Fort Lauderdale. The value of those services totaled over \$170,000. The State funded agencies provide in-home services through Medicaid and general revenue, and continue to have an extensive waiting list. The cost share subsidy programs were the only alternatives for low-cost services while clients remain on the waiting list. There are 415 disabled adults on the list that live in Broward County, and 57 of them reside in this City.

Chair David Maymon clarified the request being made by this organization. He asked if some of their clients would not qualify for Medicaid from the State, thereby being eligible to go into a State-run facility. Ms. Ross stated that if a disabled adult is 60 or over, they would be eligible for Community Care for the Elderly run by Broward County Elderly and Veteran Services. When their clients are 60 and over, they transfer to this organization. She further stated that if they could not remain in their homes, they could enter a full-time facility.

Mr. Goetz asked if home meals were delivered to such clients. Ms. Ross confirmed. Mr. Goetz asked if they conducted any subsidy related programs in the City. Ms. Ross confirmed, and stated that they served 139 Ft. Lauderdale residents in 2008, and of that they had 12,724 meals. She explained that different accounts were kept for the various services. She further explained that the meal delivery program was also funded through grants, but services would be cut if such monies were not received.

Mr. Kater asked if an individual had to be institutionalized, would their organization receive the funds. Ms. Ross stated that they would not receive such funds, and the institution would receive those monies.

Mr. Goetz asked if they had done any studies to see what happened to individuals who had not been serviced by their programs. Ms. Ross stated that studies show that such individuals do not do as well because they were not receiving the personal care, and therefore, their functionality begins to decline.

Broward Partnership For The Homeless

Lynn Federicci, Director of Clinical Services, introduced Laura Buday, Contracts Management Specialist. Ms. Federicci stated that they were requesting emergency shelter and food programming for the Central Homeless Emergency Center in Fort Lauderdale. Their services include three meals per day, room and board, clothing, security, primary health care, and screenings. On-site comprehensive services consist of mental health diagnosis and treatment, including psychiatric services, substance abuse prevention, intervention, education and treatment, vocational

training, job development, employment services, and job retention services. They also offer life skill classes, and were the only shelter offering dental services, and have full day childcare, a beauty shop run by volunteers, a gym, computer lab, and library. Their purpose is to assist residents to engage in interventions designed to prevent homelessness in the future.

During 2008, their organization served over 1200 homeless men, women and children. An additional 206 individuals were housed and fed during the year due to weather related emergencies. During the first quarter of this year, 309 individuals received services before transitioning out of emergency shelters. An additional 347 individuals were housed and fed since October 2008 due to nine weather related emergencies. She stated that there was a 14% documented rise in homelessness in Broward County over the last two years, and a rise was expected for the number of persons to be served. They were proposing outcomes based on their achievements of last year. They have been contracted to serve 850 unduplicated homeless individuals, and had served over 1200, and expect to serve more people this year.

Ms. Federicci further stated that 85% intakes achieve their goals to complete a service plan, and work towards skill development needed to end their cycle of homelessness. She stated that 52% of the individuals were discharged for transitional or permanent housing. She advised that 100% of families served that year were discharged to permanent housing. They were a 60-day facility, and try to provide intensive services. Year-to-date, their organization has served 206 unsheltered homeless individuals during weather emergencies, and to date this year, they have already served 347 persons and were not yet into hurricane season.

Ms. Federicci explained that they were requesting funds because food costs had risen a minimum of 10%, and they had been flat-line funded for the last two years through Broward County. Private fund raising has been reduced by 15%, and services were expected to increase. They operate with a resident cap of 200 persons per day which means they could only take in five new individuals per day. They want to be able to serve more, but they were limited due to the City's ordinance. They were basing estimates on present costs of \$2.10 per meal per person. They were estimating that they would be feeding 220 residents on average per day this year. Therefore, they were requesting funding for an additional 36 days which totals \$49,896.

Mr. Goetz referred to the organization's outcome charts that had been submitted with their application, and he commented that such information should be submitted by all the applicants. Ms. Federicci commented that they tracked their performance measures very closely.

Chair David Maymon asked for the applicant to explain how homeless individuals receiving dental and beauty care makes it easier for such individuals to succeed. Ms. Federicci stated that such services help individuals to smile during job interviews, and raises their self-confidence so they could be seen as creditable individuals. She further stated that they also had a Dress For Success program which assisted individuals in obtaining jobs. Their goal is to get such individuals back into employment, and out of the cycle of homelessness.

Mr. Kater asked if Board Members could be invited to visit next year, as a group, the organizations that were requesting monies.

Mr. Priester entered the meeting at this time.

Chair David Maymon explained that the Board was invited to tour each facility. Ms. Federicci explained that they conducted tours daily for individuals wanting to see what their organization does. She added that this was also their first application for such funds.

Broward Regional Health Planning Council

Pablo Calvo stated this organization has been around for the last 30 years, and has a solid track record for delivering health and human services through planning, evaluation, implementation, and capacity building at a local level. They currently provide a wide scope of services to hundreds of low and moderate income residents in this City through its divisions, such as substance abuse and mental health and the Office of Consumer Affairs. Many of their clients have temporary, unstable or transitional housing, and benefit from having dedicated supportive housing services. By treating everyone at a one-stop shop, they provide a greater continuity of service, a better understanding of an individual's health issues, and provide an all around better outcome for an individual. They want to enhance the services currently being provided so individuals could achieve housing goals.

Mr. Calvo further stated that they would provide Fair Housing Rights, and develop individual housing stability plans based on the Oregon Public Housing Model recognized by HUD. This type of active intervention, when supplemented with a delivery of primary social services, would yield greater positive housing outcomes than services provided independently. He provided a list of services that they would provide referrals for. Their organization has the capacity to identify clients in the community with a serious risk of becoming homeless. Addressing such a need proactively would reduce negative housing outcomes, and increase better health outcomes.

Mr. Goetz asked if they participated in the HUD Program, whereby data was transferred to the National HUD Offices. Mr. Calvo stated that they had the capacity to do that, and were presently carrying out the program for short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance, along with moving assistance. Such data was provided to the City, but they were not currently transferring such information to the national system. Mr. Goetz stated by doing that, it provided them with a marker as to how they were performing in relation to other HUD programs. Mr. Calvo explained that this was their first year in carrying out a HUD contract, and such data was not required to be reported to them directly. They did it on a monthly and quarterly basis to the City, who in turn reports it to HUD.

Mr. Currier asked how many individuals were served during the year by their organization. Mr. Calvo stated they were expecting to serve a minimum of 400 and a maximum of 1,000 clients per year with 500 of those from this City.

Ms. Locke asked if individuals were made aware of their organization through referrals from other agencies. Mr. Calvo confirmed, and added that they were known for some of the services that they already provided to such individuals. He explained further that part of their budget was used for outreach to community agencies.

Ms. Espinal asked about the services provided by their organization. Mr. Calvo advised that they provided referrals, and a housing stability assessment through which they develop a stability plan. Other services provided were helping clients understand Fair Housing Rights, rights and responsibilities in connection with a lease, housing referrals, and landlord mediation for disputes,

Ms. Hinton asked about caseloads for each counselor. Mr. Calvo stated that it was maxed at 100 clients per month.

The Center for Independent Living of Broward

Bob Davis, Director of Housing, stated they were a non-profit agency that helped the disabled population. The title of his grant application was "Independence and Self-Care Through the Use of Assisted Devices," and they were requesting \$15,000 for providing 30 disabled individuals in the low to moderate income category in this City with devices that would help improve their quality of life, and maintain health and safety while assisting these individuals in their daily lives. These services would prevent nursing home placement. Another goal would be to provide assessments in obtaining assisted living devices and training for use of such items. There would be on-going interaction with caseworkers, physicians, and families.

Mr. Davis proceeded to provide a list of devices that such individuals could use. He invited everyone to visit their center.

Chair David Maymon asked what was their primary referral source. Mr. Davis stated that they made presentations to communities, disability organizations, and through advertisements. He advised that disability agencies made referrals to their organization. Chair David Maymon asked about their screening process. Mr. Davis explained that was part of the in-take process.

Mr. Kater stated that this agency provided a much-needed service, and asked how \$15,000 would be justified. Mr. Davis stated that this would help them serve 30 people. He further stated that they had a warehouse of equipment donated to their organization by hospitals and individuals. He explained that he also worked with a foundation that supplied new wheelchairs monthly.

Chair David Maymon stated that page 11 of the applicant's submittal provided a breakdown of how the requested monies would be used.

Mr. Karney asked if most of the client were homeowners or renters serviced by this organization. Mr. Davis explained that the individuals were both. He further stated that in the past he worked with one city that allowed him to work with renters, and that was Lauderhill.

The Coalition to End Homelessness

Gerald Peterkin stated that he was the Program Director for a project known as Community Voicemail which was initiated 16 years ago in Seattle, Washington. The primary purpose was to assist homeless individuals regain self-sufficiency. This service helps an individual to maintain communication. They served over 375 clients this year, and would be maxing at 500. They want to expand the program to service 1,000 individuals. Over 70% of individuals using the program, expressed satisfaction in their ability to regain self-sufficiency. This is a national program in 47 cities, and could be implemented in any community service organization. There is no other program providing the alternative benefits offered by this organization.

Ms. Espinal asked for some additional information as to how voicemail would be beneficial to an individual seeking employment. Mr. Peterkin proceeded to explain the process that was normally followed. He added that proactive information was provided through this system.

Chair David Maymon asked how an individual was able to access this program. Mr. Peterkin proceeded to explain that the system could be accessed through any telephone.

Covenant House Florida

Jim Grest, Executive Director of Covenant House Florida, stated that Nelson Bogren was the Director of Residential Services in Fort Lauderdale. He thanked Chair David Maymon for visiting their facility.

Mr. Grest explained that their agency has served the needs of runaway and homeless youths under the age of 21 in the City since 1985. They were part of an international organization that provides services to youths in 21 cities with 19 of those being in the US, two in Canada, and four in Latin America. They have seen approximately 28,000 youths at their center since its existence. Their mission was to provide immediate care. Their larger goal was to find an alternative for these individuals.

Mr. Grest stated that the proposal they submitted was requesting the City to support their efforts in working with a specific segment of the population. For the last 18 months, the largest segment of the population were women (17-20) raising a child/children themselves. This project provides immediate shelter, and then an individualized case plan could be developed that would allow them to return home or prepare them to take care of themselves and their child/children. Their focus was on employment and education, and GED instruction was offered.

Ms. Birch asked if recently this organization and Jack 'n Jill were the recipients of donations from a fund raiser. Mr. Grest stated that was possible, and explained that there was an auxiliary fundraiser group known as the Young Professionals for Covenant House.

Mr. Priester asked if the parent program was proven or was it new. He also asked if they tracked the parents once they left to see if they had obtained employment and

put to use the skills taught to them. Mr. Grest explained that young women with children were part of the population they served, and over the years such population has increased. They try to maintain contact with the individuals served.

Mr. Currier asked how long individuals stayed with them, and how many people were housed at any one time. Mr. Grest stated that an average daily census last year was 92, and single-parent mothers stay longer and average about 30 days. Some individuals do return a second time, if necessary.

Crossroads Food Bank

Don Adams proceeded to introduce Diane Fiala. She explained that this organization began in 2002 with a goal to help as many needy individuals as possible. Since then, the organization has grown and they were the central food distributor in Broward County. They also collaborated with many other agencies within the County. They have a food bank and pantry. A hunger survey was done in 2007, and it was determined that one in every six individuals goes hungry within this County daily. She explained that 95% of the individuals served were of low income, and 85% of those people are female heads of households. One of their goals is to help needy families who have children going to school hungry. Their food bank provides food to 74 other helping agencies who run food programs. The request they are making would provide food to 200 pantry clients monthly. They also propose to give 7 helping agencies food monthly. Twenty-one new agencies have approached their organization for bulk food, and 7 or 8 of those agencies would be feeding Fort Lauderdale residents.

Ms. Fiala advised that in 2008, they distributed over 2,600,000 pounds of food to pantry and food bank clients. This year they expect to distribute over 4,000,000 pounds of food. Funding is received from all sectors such as private, corporate, and individuals. This organization helps individuals bridge a gap during needy times.

Ms. Birch stated that she attended this organization's open house, and she was very impressed and congratulated them on the wonderful work they were doing.

Chair David Maymon thanked the organization for the tour he was given, and stated that they were running a first-class operation. He stated that they were attempting to earmark funds for a new freezer.

Mr. Adams stated they were attempting to feed as many individuals as possible.

First Call For Help of Broward

Sheila Smith, CEO, stated they were better known as 211 Broward. She thanked the Board for their past support. She stated that individuals could call 211 who were in need of health and human service programs in the County or need crisis or suicide intervention. They were the first point of entry for more than 3300 different programs maintained in their database. She stated that due to the present economy, they were seeing needs never seen previously, and serving a number of individuals never served in the past. Last year, they had 97,000 calls come in, and this year they anticipate receiving 145,000 calls that would be handled by their present staff. She

explained that over 50% of the calls were for basic needs. She stated that one in ten callers were new to this system. She stated that Fort Lauderdale was the number one municipality in terms of call volume.

Ms. Smith explained that they were requesting \$50,000 to build on the core services that funding support has been provided for in the past. It would help reduce the burden on the providers. They anticipate to continue handling the calls from residents of this City, and provide those individuals with the needed services. They also identify that about 346 would be referred to the phone-based case management program and work intensively with them. She stated that this organization was unique because it potentially touches everyone in the community. She stated that local governments were looking to them to provide direct assistance to individuals in need. Due to the economy, crisis calls were increasing. She added that they would be grateful for the City's continued support.

Mr. Kater asked if this organization upgraded their phone system last year. Ms. Smith stated that she was not present last year, and therefore, only knew that general operating support was received from this Board. She explained that they were a 24-hour service that was automated, and they were working to expand the phone system over time, but it would be a significant technological upgrade and would probably cost over \$100,000. Therefore, they were asking for support for their basic line of operations, and assistance in implementing a second level of service for individuals.

Ms. Birch asked how this program was advertised. Ms. Smith stated they were undertaking new marketing activities. They also had an active board that made presentations, and were partnering with the United Way.

Mr. Goetz stated that this was one of the best programs in Broward County, but they did not track the individuals and successes from the program. He would suggest they attempt to do that in the future.

Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida

Monica Cupid stated that this organization has been around for almost 100 years, and some changes were made in Broward County, including their name. They now covered six counties. What has not changed was their mission. They continue to build courage, character, and confidence in girls. This was a premier leadership experience, and the program was girl driven reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of today's girls. It continues to be a safe place to encourage girls to participate in activities, while discovering the world around them. They continue to focus on making this an enjoyable experience for girls. She proceeded to list some of the available programs.

Ms. Cupid stated that in today's world girls were at risk, and 41% of pre-teen girls were afraid of being bullied. One in four girls want to leave home due to family violence, and six out of ten pre-teen girls go on diets with 12% going to extremes. She stated that 26% of the girls feel unsafe and use alcohol. Only 1% of members of Girl Scouts go before a juvenile court. Girls staying in the organization for at least five years did not feel pressured to do things they should not do. The funds being

requested would serve 400 Fort Lauderdale residents in low-income families. They were looking to provide a troop leader with the funds, along with providing for membership dues and supplies. She thanked the Board for their support in the past.

Mr. Goetz asked if programs had been instituted even though monies had not been contributed through the CDBG. Ms. Cupid confirmed, and stated they were able to serve about 150 girls. The quality of the program was maintained but some amenities had been reduced, such as field trips.

Mr. Priester asked what areas in this City were targeted for assistance. Ms. Cupid stated they would provide 30 weeks of the program, and she proceeded to outline the target areas receiving assistance. Mr. Priester asked if the girls would participate in the program with the hiring of another troop leader. Ms. Cupid explained that recruitments had been done, and all they needed now was the leader.

Mr. Kater stated that his girls belonged to this organization, but he had never seen funds as being requested. She stated that low-income families were helped.

Homes, Inc.

Katherine Barry, CEO of Homes, Inc., stated they have been around for 10 years and are located on NE 13th Street. Their mission was affordable housing for low-income residents and special needs population, along with neighborhood revitalization. This is their first application for CDBG funds, and were requesting \$30,000 to do a housing, financial, and counseling education program. They propose to serve 100 families with six financial literacy education workshops with an FDIC approved curriculum known as "Money Smart." They hope to serve 50 families with individual counseling for low-income families. They would refer 25 referrals to other non-profit agencies that provide specific emergency needs. They would serve 50 clients with access to their credit reports and review it with them, while teaching monthly budgeting and more efficient management of their credit. The need has never been greater for housing and financial education services for extremely low and moderate income individuals/families.

Ms. Barry advised that they would be targeting families that might be losing employment, and those impacted by eviction and foreclosures. This is an underserved area and individuals were being left out in the cold. Youth transitioning out of the foster care system would be trained. Their agency was presently renovating apartments for such youth.

Mr. Kater asked about the age of foster care children. Ms. Barry explained the children at risk.

Ms. Locke asked how they prioritized the individuals requesting assistance. Ms. Barry stated that it was a factor of funding. She added that they were not a HUD approved agency.

Ms. Batchelder advised that this Board would meet on May 11, 2009 to discuss funding rankings.

MEETING RECESSED AT APPROXIMATELY 8:24 P.M.**MEETING RECONVENED AT APPROXIMATELY 8:38 P.M.**

Chair David Maymon advised that Mr. Kater would abstain from voting on the Jack 'n Jill request.

Jack 'n Jill

Shannon Cross, Executive Director, proceeded to introduce Susan Stanley, Finance Director. Ms. Cross provided a brief history regarding the organization. She explained that it was established in 1942 with a focus on getting women back into the workforce due to men serving in the Armed Forces. Their mission was now to break the cycle of poverty for low-income working families in Broward County. They serve 170 children (6 weeks five years of age), and 90% of their families make 150% of the poverty line. The U.S. Department of Labor recently conducted a study which stated that women, especially single mothers, were the fastest growing group in poverty. She stated further that 90% of their families were headed by single mothers.

Ms. Cross continued stating that in an effort to avoid a duplication of services in the community, they completed a survey in 2000 which showed there was a lack for infant/toddler care in the County. Therefore, in 2003 they opened their new facility with a curriculum based program serving 21 children ages 6 weeks to 24 months. The goal was that there were less than 600 licensed childcare facilities in the County, and less than one-third offer infant/toddler care. Another benefit was that they did serve children up to five years of age, and 74% of their children in the infant/toddler program have a sibling in the center. She stated that 90% of a child's brain develops by the age of five. Therefore, such children need to be in a stimulating and nurturing environment. For every dollar invested in early childhood, they receive a \$17 return.

Ms. Cross explained that all children enrolled in their programs were used on a national scientifically based screening tour used three times a year to detect any problems. All families have to work or be in school 30 hours per week, and handouts were not given. They also had some collaborations in connection with the infant/toddler program.

Chair David Maymon thanked the group for the tour he received, and he stated that he was very impressed with their facility.

Mr. Priester asked what was the ratio of student to teacher at their facility. Ms. Cross stated they were nationally accredited, and one of the criteria was to have a low student/teacher ratio. In the infant room, there were three babies to one teacher. There were four toddlers to one teacher, and the maximum was 9 infants to three teachers with 12 toddlers to three teachers.

Chair David Maymon stated that there was a heightened level of accountability at this facility for each parent.

Ms. Cross explained further that quarterly they checked pay stubs and school schedules to make sure parents were working or going to school.

Mr. Goetz asked how they tracked the effectiveness of their programs. Ms. Cross explained that they used a national screening tool which measured cognitive skills, and social and emotional levels. Mr. Goetz asked about the selection process. Ms. Cross stated that the criteria was that parents had to be working or attending school.

Lighthouse for the Blind

Elly du Prey, Executive Director, stated that she wanted to thank this Board for their past support regarding Lighthouse on the Move. This was the program she again was requesting assistance for in the amount of \$10,000 that would provide services to 30 low-income individuals. She explained that 50% of individuals over the age of 60 in this City and the Country had one or more of the four leading causes of visual impairment. This program prevents institutionalization and victimization of such individuals. They were the only agency in the County providing an accredited program for such services.

Mr. Kater stated that he visited this facility on several occasions, and that they provided great services to individuals. Ms. du Prey explained that they have been in existence for around 35 years.

Mount Olive Development Corporation

Dr. Rosalind Osgood, President and CEO, stated that their mission was to provide strategic programs that would provide jobs and foster economic stability through human services. They developed in 1994 and have built a partnership with the City and other community-based organizations and businesses to provide programs and services to low-income families. They were requesting assistance to fund their industry-based employment placement and business skill development programs which were designed to join the City in an attempt to economically empower the citizens of this City. Their program targets individuals wanting to enter/re-enter the job market. The total cost for their program was \$72,502, and they were requesting \$32,018 from the CDBG funds.

Mr. Goetz asked if they were tracking individuals in getting jobs. Dr. Osgood confirmed, and explained how the program would work. Mr. Goetz asked if they systematically had monitored such information previously. Dr. Osgood explained they were working with OIC of Broward who was monitoring the program with them. She stated that they had not previously monitored their results. She explained that about 75% of the individuals assisted have gotten jobs and maintained them for longer than three months.

Mr. Kater asked for some additional information regarding OIC. Dr. Osgood stated they had an Executive Director, Newton Sannon, and were located in Oakland Park.

Mr. Priester asked if they were targeting sex offenders throughout Broward County, Dr. Osgood advised that they were targeting sex offenders in a specific zip code, and explained how the process with OIC worked.

New Visions Community Development Corp.

Janice Hayes introduced Ms. Harris, Executive Director, of the corporation.

Ms. Hayes stated they were one of the leading not-for-profit community development corporations to enhance and empower impoverished communities and were HUD approved with all their counselors being certified. In the last 12 years, they have assisted over 7,800 individuals and families and helped to improve their socio and economic quality of life. Economic self-sufficiency is the key to a better life. They have a proven set of strategies used to engage each client to a path of productivity and sustainability. They measure their success through the successful outcomes of the individuals served. One of their goals was to prevent homelessness. The majority of individuals who face homelessness were people needing gap assistance and counseling. She explained that they attempted to identify the proper tool box to use for an individual. They use a Microsoft Program known as Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum where basics were being taught in connection with computers. She stated that they have already started their marketing program, and two financial literacy workshops were held monthly. She stated that 50% of the funds being requested would be used for client subsidies.

Mr. Goetz asked about the difference between this program and the one previously presented. Ms. Hayes proceeded to explain that 25% of individuals without skills would have a job within a 12-month period. She further explained the difference between the two programs.

Ms. Birch explained that the two programs involved 2-3 different types of individuals.

Ms. Hayes stated that the disparity could be that 100% of individuals going through the previous presenter's program did not have jobs, and 40% of this corporation's individuals had jobs.

Russell Life Skills and Reading Foundation

Twan Russell, Founder of the organization, stated that they were going to celebrate their 10th anniversary this year. They currently serve approximately 450 children in the Fort Lauderdale area. They had a 40% increase in kids that were ESC, but they had to reduce their number in order to keep up good learning experiences. Certified teachers were used for their program. He proceeded to explain the evaluation done on the students coming to their facility. They only focused on reading and based the program on 60% phonetics, and 40% on whole language. Presently, in the State of Florida, a student could remain in the third grade for three years if they did not pass the FCATs. The children in their program were passing those tests by 100%. They were proposing to use the funds being requested to hire a speech and language pathologist. The dynamics of their program were changing to accommodate the change in the students. He further stated that they were attempting to correct the spelling and speech of their students. He added that they did not do much homework.

Chair David Maymon clarified that this was for Osswald Park location. Mr. Russell confirmed.

Safe Water Instruction

Matthew Berman, Director of Swim Central, stated that he was representing the SWIMs Foundation. He stated that they have been around for 10 years, and 190,000 kids have gone through the program and no one has died. Swim Central is the only organization of its type in the Nation. They were requesting \$25,000 which amount would send 1,354 children swimming. The total price tag for the program that they want to launch was \$65,000. He encouraged the Board Members to visit their organization. He added that they had investigated 30 drownings that occurred in the County over the last five years, and analyzed every police report. They found that 78% of the children who died were being watched by two adults at the time of their disappearance, and 100% of the kids that died did not have any formal lessons. Drownings can be prevented through education.

Mr. Kater asked if adults had to pay a fee for the program. Mr. Berman explained that monies were secured to fill the gap from other agencies. This year there would probably be a waiting list. He continued stating that they had 130 elementary schools on board with the program, and they had partnerships with 61 aquatic facilities around the County.

Mr. Priester stated that his only objection is that the program was conducted during school time. Mr. Berman stated that free lessons were offered three years ago, but the parents did not bring the children.

Second Chance Society

Lee Burt, Board Chair, proceeded to introduce Pat Owen who was the Founder of this society eight years ago. He stated that this society was grouped into the economic empowerment category, and explained that they assisted the homeless and struggling individuals in the community. They work with agencies in the Coalition to end homelessness in the County. They provide individuals with whatever is needed to help them gain employment. There was free education offered in some of the vocational schools. They have served more than 1350 clients in their eight years, and serve over 300 people a year. He explained that they had one Administrative Assistant who was a paid employee, and all other individuals were volunteers. He stated that 83% of the funds they were applying for would go directly to serve their clients. They have an outcome tracking program, and he proceeded to explain the process. This allowed them to continually tweak their program to make sure it was beneficial.

Senior Volunteer Services

Diane Smith, Vice President of Development and Programs, stated their mission was to engage older adults to volunteer service to meet critical community needs, while enriching the lives of the volunteers. They were requesting funding for the Foster Grandparent Program, and this was the first time they were requesting funds through the CDBG Program. This was an intergenerational program that provides senior

volunteers to work with children ranging in age from 3 to 11. They tutor, mentor and provide a nurturing relationship to the children to provide their physical, mental, emotional and social development. These volunteers attempt to improve the lives of disadvantaged children. This program began in 1965 in Fort Lauderdale. Last year they had 205 volunteers, and 50 of those were residents of this City. They provided service to 12 elementary schools and 3 childcare centers. Over 143,000 hours have been volunteered. They partner with over 150 other organizations, and the need for their services has increased dramatically. They were requesting \$26,200 to be utilized to provide a tax-free stipend that would enable the senior volunteers to continue serving and be able to pay their expenses. She encouraged the Board Members to visit their organization.

Mr. Priester asked if there was a way they could screen the elderly volunteers to make sure they were able to provide the necessary services. Ms. Smith explained that this program helped to keep some of those volunteers active.

Mr. Kimmey asked what program they were involved with last year. Ms. Smith explained that it was the Broward Homebound Program.

Urban League of Broward County

Monica Navarro, Chief Financial Officer, proceeded to introduce Courtnee Biscardi. Ms. Navarro stated this group was one of the 100 affiliates from the National Urban League effort. They have been in the community for 35 years, and they target the disparity between the Caucasian, African American population, and the disenfranchised minorities. They want to offer a program that would curtail the foreclosure trend in this City.

Courtnee Biscardi stated that basic needs of individuals were important. They were a HUD certified counseling agency. Good monitoring and tracking of clients was required. Homeownership counseling services have been provided since 1999, and their primary effort was focused on education. They recognize the need for foreclosure services due to the increase in volume during these economic times. They need to expand their services to more residents and that was the reason for their request. They were proposing to serve 150 residents through education services, and serve 50 residents through one-on-one counseling.

Ms. Biscardi explained that the 331 zip code was their urban core, but they were reaching out to the entire Broward County area. Services were provided on a first-come/first-serve basis.

Mr. Currier asked how people were referred to their organization. Ms. Navarro stated that buyers were not necessarily required to receive HUD certified counseling, but many of the lending agencies have identified them as a vehicle where such services could be obtained. They were also part of hotlines where information was provided regarding their services. Also, word of mouth was another form of advertisement.

Mr. Goetz asked what percentage of individuals whose homes were foreclosed upon became homeless. Ms. Navarro stated that she did not have such statistics available this evening, but they had a ranking whereby this City ranked 6th nationwide

regarding foreclosures. In earlier 2009, there appeared to be an increase in foreclosures in this City by 19%. Mr. Goetz explained that he was attempting to get a cost benefit. Ms. Navarro stated that it ran on average \$60,000 to do a foreclosure, and costs them \$333 to service a client. In addition, it is important during these economic times to know where they were investing their dollars. Many of their clients had been victims of predatory lenders. Their organization has a strong balance sheet.

Women in Distress

Brenda Levine, Director of Outreach Services, stated they were the only national and state certified domestic violence center in Broward County, and they were the leading providers of domestic violence services. She stated that in regard to domestic violence, they were speaking about emotional, as well as physical, abuse. In Broward County, there were 9,162 restraining orders filed, and 602 domestic violence offences in the City of Fort Lauderdale. They provide emergency shelter services, counseling, and advocacy support services. Fort Lauderdale residents represent the highest percentage of individuals they serve. During the past year, they served 324 Fort Lauderdale residents.

Ms. Levine explained that their project goal was to provide counseling and advocacy to 164 Fort Lauderdale residents. They provide outreach and shelter services, and have bought a new property in Deerfield Beach consisting of six acres. They want to consolidate their campuses into one location. They have interest in protecting and maintaining their continuity of services here in Fort Lauderdale. This application would provide a full time advocate at the Fort Lauderdale site. They were in touch with Broward Health to secure an outreach vocation for the City's residents. They anticipate moving to Deerfield during the last quarter of this year. She proceeded to list the locations where services were provided.

Mr. Kater asked if the property in Davie could be used as their outreach center. Ms. Levine explained that the property in Davie was being sold.

Mr. Goetz asked what percent of women filed restraining orders but were still killed. Ms. Levine stated that she did not have such information available this evening, but all restraining orders were not granted even though they had been filed and requested. About one-third were only granted.

The City of Fort Lauderdale

Barbara Barber, Parks and Recreation, stated they were requesting funding for their PARK scholarship. PARK was an acronym for Program Assistance for Reaching Kids. They were not requesting funds to operate the program, but there was a large percentage of the children who could not afford the registration fees. They hoped to subsidize those fees through the CDBG funds. She explained that the programs were operated at 12 sites, including two schools. She proceeded to list the activities that were included in the program. She stated that their programs would keep approximately 2,000 children off the streets during the summer. She added that they would pay for lifeguard training offered by the American Red Cross to students who showed an interest, and then hire them in the summer.

Ms. Barber stated their newest program was known as the Honey Project which was an entrepreneur program. They partnered with children in Africa to harvest and package the honey which is then shipped to Fort Lauderdale, and the students here sell the honey. Another program was begun with the Police Department which was a mentoring and prevention program. Their cultural arts program has also been expanded. Their newest program was urban baseball revitalization.

Mr. Goetz asked if more children would sign up for the programs if they were free. Ms. Barber stated that cost was a prohibitive factor, but fortunately they have had CDBG funding for the last few years to help children pay the costs who could not afford to participate otherwise. She believes there would be an extra 25% to 30% increase if there were no fees attached to the programs. She further explained that their department subsidized the monies received from the CDBG by 75%. She proceeded to explain the process followed in connection with how applications for the programs were submitted.

Ms. Birch clarified that in most cases if parents could not afford the program fees, the children would not be registered.

Ms. Barber stated that this City's fees were some of the lowest in the County.

Ms. Espinal stated that in the past they have asked the City to find other sources to fund their programs. She believed some of the programs were like extended daycare and not recreational.

Mr. Goetz asked if HUD monies were City money. It was explained that it was City money allocated to the Housing Department to administer housing programs. The City Commission was ultimately in charge of such dollars.

All presentations were concluded.

Other Business

Ms. Batchelder stated that at the last Commission meeting, the new Commission felt that the advisory boards were not getting their information to the Commission. Therefore, they wanted to put a special section on the first page of the minutes.

Ms. Batchelder reminded the Board that the next meeting would be May 11, 2009, and hopefully they would have the allocations at that time because they have not yet been advised of them. Hopefully, they would be equal to last year's. They agreed at the last meeting that the Board Members would submit their ranking sheets to the office on May 7, 2009.

Ms. Birch commented on advisory boards transmitting their recommendations and suggestions to the City Commission. She suggested that the new Commission should read the minutes of the Advisory Boards.

Mr. Kimmey asked if it would be appropriate for this Board to place a restriction on the City to not request grant money. Ms. Batchelder stated that the City had the right

to request such monies, and possibly a request of that type could be made to the City Commission.

Mr. Priester stated that it was hard to eliminate personal feelings when doing the rankings for these requests. He remarked that he was an advocate for children. He felt they needed to look at the rankings more objectively.

Ms. Birch stated that being an advocate had nothing to do with the ranking sheets for the CDBG funds.

Good of the Order

Nothing was discussed.

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

There being no other business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,
Recording Secretary