

APPROVED

COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING April 12, 2010 – 7:00 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>
Erika Baer	P		5	2
Michael Kimmey	P		5	2
Avery Dial	P		7	0
Margaret Birch	P		6	1
P.J. Espinal	P		6	1
Christopher Priester		A	4	3
James Currier	P		6	1
Nadia Locke	P		7	0
Donald Karney	P		7	0
Helen Hinton	P		4	3
Wendy Gonsler	P		6	1
Jeannine Richards	P		6	0
David Tilbury	P		3	1
Richard Whipple	P		3	0
Suzanne Higgins		A	1	1

Staff Present:

Angelia Basto, Administrative Support
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Manager of Housing & Community Development
David Harvey, Monitoring and Compliance Officer, CDBG Program

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

As of April 12, 2010, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 members would constitute a quorum.

Call to Order

Chair Avery Dial called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m., and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Donald Karney.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present this evening.

Nadia Locke entered the meeting at approximately 7:01 p.m.

Board and Staff Introductions

The Board Members proceeded to introduce themselves.

Staff members present this evening were introduced by Ms. Batchelder.

Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2010

Without objection, the minutes of the March 8, 2010 Community Services Board meeting were approved as presented.

Communications to City Commission

Nothing to report.

Ms. Batchelder explained that Mr. Tilbury entered the meeting at approximately 7:11 p.m.

CDBG 2010/2011 Applicant Presentations

Chair Avery Dial proceeded to explain the procedure that would be followed at this meeting regarding the CDBG presentations.

Ms. Batchelder advised that the presentations would be made according to the categories presented to the Board.

The first category would be regarding youth related programs. Two eligible applications were received in this category, and they are as follows:

1. Baby Otter Scholarship & Education Fund
2. S.W.I.M.S. Foundation, Inc.

Baby Otter Scholarship & Education Fund

Marlene Bloom explained they have been on a mission to save lives, and the Baby Otter Scholarship & Education Fund does just that.

Mindy York stated she has been an aquatic expert for 25 years, and explained that her child was found dead at the bottom of a pool at age 17 months. After the incident, she decided her mission in life was to make sure these incidents didn't occur. Broward County does not have education on the layers of protection to prevent such situations.

Ms. Bloom stated their DVD reviewed the layers of protection so everyone could be educated in the community to prevent drownings that keep occurring. They believe this was more effective than brochures. They want to bring this information to the childcare centers in the community, and therefore, the DVD would be given to the Health Department for distribution. They are requesting monies in order to keep the program.

Mr. Currier stated this was a worthwhile project, and asked how individuals could obtain the DVD. Ms. Bloom stated they want at least 51% to go to low income families, and they will also be available on the organization's web site babyotterswim.school.com.

Mr. Whipple asked if the DVD would be available in other languages. Ms. Bloom explained there would be a Spanish version, but that has not yet been produced. Mr. Karney asked if they secured any funding from the government in connection with their project for the military bases. Ms. Bloom explained they were presently going through that process, and had a grant writer doing the application.

Ms. Gonsler asked if any statistics were available regarding the success of the DVD. Ms. York explained that individuals pay more attention to visual instruction, and positive feedback was provided by the parents of the children attending swimming classes.

Ms. Birch asked if the DVD would be available in other languages besides English and Spanish. Ms. York stated those were the only languages that would be covered at this time, but their next project was to provide the DVD in Creole.

Ms. Baer asked if low income families had the equipment necessary to watch a DVD. Ms. Bloom stated that most people had computers or DVD players, and explained further that the childcare centers can run the program. Ms. York added that the DVD is running in the Emergency Room at Broward General at this time.

Ms. Espinal asked if this organization was connected with Swim Central because they were also present requesting funding. Ms. Bloom confirmed. Ms. Espinal asked if Swim Central would also be distributing the DVD. Ms. York explained that the DVDs would be distributed by the Health Department, and therefore, they were not sure of all the places they were going to be distributed. Hopefully, in the future, the DVD would be distributed to Swim Central.

Ms. Espinal doubted if most low income families had the necessary equipment to view the DVD. She stated there were also parenting classes available, and possibly such agencies could also distribute or show the DVD. Ms. York explained the DVD had been copyrighted, and she was not sure about replication of it. She reiterated that swimming lessons was only one layer of protection. Ms. Espinal asked if the DVD could be played on XBox or similar types of equipment. Ms. York was not sure what equipment could be used.

S.W.I.M.S. Foundation, Inc.

No one was present from this organization at this time.

The second category pertained to special needs related programs. Those were:

1. Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine
2. Broward Housing Solutions
3. Center for Independent Living of Broward
4. Senior Volunteer Services
5. The Coalition to End Homelessness

Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine

The following individuals proceeded to introduce themselves from this organization:

- Tom Corbin, Clinical Director and a Doctor of Oriental Medicine.
- Toni Hernandez, General Manager.

Dr. Corbin explained that 12 years ago he was requested to place his research in a VA Center, and presently, the program connected with 400 other programs throughout the US. He explained they were treating Veterans for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). This program provides a holistic mind and body healthy approach to providing complete treatment of PTSD using Chinese medicine aimed at reducing the effects of the disorder. He stated that statistics show the program has increased the quality of life for individuals by 67%, and pain results have been reduced between 20% to 30%. He proceeded to explain the types of individuals being treated for the ailment and substance abuse. He stated they were currently serving 53 Veterans, and they wanted to provide services for many more.

Mr. Kimmey arrived at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Ms. Birch asked how long this type of treatment had been available in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Corbin stated services have been available for more than one year. He added that services had been provided free of charge. Ms. Birch asked about the statistics provided. Dr. Corbin explained those statistics were from West Palm Beach, but the same statistics appear throughout the Veterans Administration Programs. He explained that various studies had been performed on the issue.

Ms. Baer asked where the Veterans had been recruited from that they were working with. Ms. Hernandez stated their community liaison visited various Veterans organizations. Ms. Baer asked why only 51 individuals had been provided the service. Dr. Corbin cited financial resources as the reason. Ms. Baer asked where the services were being provided. Dr. Corbin explained services were provided at the facility on Broward Boulevard.

Mr. Currier asked about Dr. Corbin's medical training and history. Dr. Corbin stated he came from Western Medicine, and entered the Acupuncture Program in 1991 which was a three-year program. He studied at the Community School of Traditional Chinese Healthcare. He then went to China for one year and worked with the World Health Organization. He then did research at the University of Miami and was the Associate Director of Complimentary Therapy. He teaches at the University of Miami and also teaches his specialty, which is Ear Acupuncture, throughout the world. Currently, for an individual to be trained and certified needs 60 pre-college credits, 150 college credits for a particular course. National Board exams in acupuncture and herbal medicine have to be passed. Mr. Currier asked about Dr. Corbin's Doctorate Degree. Dr. Corbin stated the Doctorate Degree was obtained from the National Association of Acupuncture.

Ms. Gonsler asked if the acupuncture would be administered by interns under a doctor's supervision. Dr. Corbin confirmed, and explained the ratio of interns per patient under a doctor's supervision. He added that ear acupuncture was done on a one-on-one basis.

Mr. Karney asked about the ages of the Veterans being treated. Dr. Corbin stated the youngest individuals were around 40 years of age. He added they began seeing Iraq Veterans, and hoped they would come to the school.

Ms. Baer asked about the identity of Joanna Yen. Dr. Corbin explained she was President of the school. Ms. Baer asked if Dr. Corbin would also be a facilitator. Dr. Corbin stated he probably would be the facilitator since he was also a Veteran.

Broward Housing Solutions

Lisa Vecchi stated she is the CEO of this organization, and explained the proposal they were seeking funding for was "Housing Solutions for Families with Mental Illness." This was under their rental housing program. They provide affordable housing to lower income individuals struggling with mental illness. They will charge only 30% of a monthly income averaging about \$202.20. The average tenant residing in such housing has an income of about \$674 under Social Security Disability. The remaining monies are used for general expense. They have been successful in affordable housing for 17 years when the Department of Children & Families entered into a task force with them.

Ms. Vecchi explained they currently housed 183 tenants and their families at 21 scattered properties throughout Broward County. The units consist of one to three bedrooms. Of the 183 tenants, 62 of them are children and 31 are under the age of 18. In the City of Fort Lauderdale, 112 reside in their units, and 57% of such individuals would benefit from the requested funding. Seven complex units would be affected by the funding within this City.

Ms. Vecchi stated their program has been working for the last 17 years, and provided statistics on the program's success. She explained a newly awarded HUD grant would enable them to serve an additional 57 clients. She added that the Stimulus Grant enabled them to assist 14 individuals. She provided information regarding one of their success stories.

Ms. Vecchi stated that Broward County's 10-year plan of homelessness centers around establishing permanent housing. The most successful model for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness was permanent and supportive housing. She stated this award to enable their organization to build capacity in a well-oiled machine.

Chair Avery Dial asked if they were part of Broward County. Ms. Vecchi stated they were funded by the County who assisted them with rental housing, as well as matching funds from the Department of Children and Families. She stated they are asking for funding to pick up where the 2.2 months funding runs out.

It was asked if individuals had to be on Social Security or other type of income in order to be a recipient. Ms. Vecchi stated that was not the case.

Mr. Karney asked if the 21 sites were owned by the organization. Ms. Vecchi confirmed and explained they were on forgivable loans from banks, and some have small mortgages provided they continue to be used for such types of programs. Mr. Karney asked if there were any chances of the properties being foreclosed. Ms. Vecchi stated that was not the case.

Ms. Baer asked if special services were provided such as mental counseling. Ms. Vecchi explained they provided affordable housing, but were contracted with the Community Mental Health providers who provide support services. Individuals are referred to their organization by case managers.

Mr. Kimmey asked about leasing the houses with the option to purchase. Ms. Vecchi stated besides the 21 sites, they have six lease to buy single-family homes, condominiums, and townhouses they purchased with grants.

Mr. Karney asked when the lease to own properties had been purchased. Ms. Vecchi stated the first purchase was made in 1997, and the most recent was about three months ago.

Ms. Espinal asked if the organization was connected with Section 8 housing. Ms. Vecchi stated that Section 8 would be double-dipping.

Center For Independent Living of Broward

Bob Davis, Director of Housing and Independent Living, stated they were a non-profit agency helping disabled individuals. With the request for monies, they were hoping to provide 20-35 individuals in the low to moderate income category in the City. He proceeded to explain the services provided by their organization. He explained he has been involved in this work since 1998.

Ms. Gonsler asked if some of the services mentioned could be provided by other government programs. Mr. Davis stated they did not provide all the equipment, but helped to install it for individuals. He added that some of the individuals did not have insurance to help them purchase necessary equipment to improve their quality of life.

Mr. Karney asked where such individuals resided if they could not remain in their homes. Mr. Davis explained that some of the people went into nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Mr. Karney asked if devices were installed to help an individual maintain their independent lifestyle, what was the average time span in delaying nursing home placement. Mr. Davis stated he did many nursing home diversion projects. To date, he knows of no individuals who had to give up their independent lifestyle that they had assisted with improvements.

Ms. Gonsler asked if any statistics were available in connection with the need of this type of program. Mr. Davis stated that by using the below poverty average, there were more than 141,370 individuals in this City that meets the target population for such services.

Mr. Whipple stated that the City of Hollywood used CDBG funds for these types of services. He asked for some further clarification from staff.

Ms. Batchelder stated that up until this year, the City has not incorporated any type of housing strategy business. This proposal is eligible as to how it is being presented. She stated this could be presented in the Housing Program. By placing the request in this fashion, it would relieve staff of the monitoring aspect. She would not be able to guarantee that this would be granted monies under the Housing Program.

Senior Volunteer Services

Diane Smith, Vice President of Development & Programs for Senior Volunteer Services, stated this organization provides individualized services to assist frail elderly and disabled adult clients to reduce isolation, positively impact their mental health, improve their quality of life, and assist them to maintain dignity and live independently as long as possible. They are the local sponsor of the Federal Senior Corp Programs in the County. She proceeded to name those programs. She explained their proposal is for a senior companion program that utilizes individuals 55 and older who meet income eligibility requirements. She proceeded to explain the program.

Ms. Smith explained they served 424 adults last year, and 29% of those adults lived in Fort Lauderdale. Personal care services were not provided. They collaborate with 29 non-profit organizations. The volunteers are the eyes and ears of the Case Management Agencies. She added that Fort Lauderdale was the largest city for such services, with Lauderhill and Deerfield next in line.

Ms. Gonsler clarified that the monies being requested would pay the case managers. Ms. Smith confirmed and explained they presently had only two individuals on staff who managed the 424 individuals, plus the senior companions. She explained further that they help volunteers find programs in which they can remain active citizens. The program has a dual purpose. It benefits the individuals who receive assistance, and it also helps the volunteers remain active in their community.

Coalition To End Homelessness

Gerald Peterkin, Program Director, stated their vision is to alleviate homelessness. They are requesting funding for the ID Replacement Program which empowers homeless individuals to regain self-sufficiency. This decreases crime because assistance is given to individuals to gain employment and provide access to social services.

It was asked if the individuals had to have their fingerprints taken during the process. Mr. Peterkin stated they did not have such requirement. It was mentioned that concerns could be raised in connection with this program that convicted individuals could obtain a new identity. Mr. Peterkin explained the procedure followed in the program, and how such things would be prevented.

Ms. Espinal asked about the Voicemail Program. Mr. Peterkin stated this Board approved funding for that program, but it was denied by the City Commission. Ms. Batchelder stated that such information had been provided to the Board. Mr. Peterkin explained the program lasted for about six months, and due to a lack of funding it had been discontinued. He advised it was a national program and had been launched successfully in Orlando.

Chair Avery Dial asked if the ID Program had been launched in other locations. Mr. Peterkin stated the program had been done on a smaller scale in other agencies. He further stated there was no consistent long-term permanent program in the City.

Ms. Baer asked how the program would be constructed. Mr. Peterkin explained there would be a case manager who would run the program. Ms. Baer asked where the organization's office was located. Mr. Peterkin stated their current office was located at 1828 NW 38th Avenue in Lauderhill. Ms. Baer asked how many individuals would be served by their program in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Peterkin stated their service providers are located mainly in Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Avery Dial asked what percentage of Fort Lauderdale residents were serviced by the organization. Mr. Peterkin stated that such information could be provided, and added that based on last year's information approximately 30% to 35% of Fort Lauderdale residents received services. Chair Avery Dial stated such information was important, and asked for the information to be provided. Mr. Peterkin confirmed.

Category 3 addressed emergency food and shelter related programs. Those programs were as follows:

1. Broward Partnership For The Homeless.
2. The Shepherd's Way.

Broward Partnership For The Homeless

Lin Federici, Director of Clinical Services, stated they operate a 200-bed emergency shelter facility in the City. She proceeded to explain the services provided at their facility. She explained that the funds they are requesting would provide additional financial assistance with the cost of mass food service at the shelter operation for more than 200 people per year. She explained the average length of stay at their shelter was 60 days. They opened their doors in February, 1999 and housed over 14,000 homeless individuals and families. She explained they had 100% occupancy at all times.

Ms. Federici explained that food service represents one of their highest expenditures. She added they also fed individuals during weather related emergencies. She stated they target Broward County residents, and particularly homeless individuals within a 2-mile radius of their shelter. She proceeded to provide statistics regarding individuals served. She added that they participated in food pantries and United Way operation lifelines. She stated they are currently funded by the County, but do have a gap in their budget.

Mr. Tilbury asked for some further clarification regarding completion of the program. Ms. Federici proceeded to explain the procedure followed for each individual.

Ms. Birch asked if there was a drop-off location for clothing. Ms. Federici confirmed and stated the location was available 24 hours a day and had security at the location.

Mr. Currier asked where individuals went once they left this facility. Ms. Federici explained that some went into transitional housing once they had achieved income or some had extensions of stay to help them save income to move into independent housing.

Mr. Whipple asked about the gap in the facility regarding food service. Ms. Federici stated they estimate that it costs \$2 per person, per meal, and the food donated through other agencies consists of a variety of supplies which are not always edible.

Laura Turk stated that smaller items donated by the public were used for after care programs. Ms. Federici explained they provided after care for several months once individuals move out.

Mr. Karney asked how dental care could be provided. Ms. Federici stated they have private donors and foundation grants to provide such service.

Ms. Espinal stated that the 7th Avenue Clinic pulled teeth for free. Ms. Turk stated that sometimes they referred individuals to that facility. Ms. Federici advised they had Broward Health on site doing medical screenings and providing primary health care.

The Shepherd's Way

Steve Werthman, Director of Program Development, stated that Robin Martin is their Executive Director. Mr. Werthman explained this is a faith-based not-for-profit organization that has been active in Broward County since 1995. Their programs benefit homeless families. They also partner with approximately 23 other churches to provide services. He proceeded to explain the services they provided. The funds they are requesting would be utilized to fund staff dedicated to recruit, train and coordinate faith community volunteers, and develop other faith-based and private resources.

Mr. Werthman stated their expertise is to work with faith-based organizations to implement programs to alleviate homelessness. They want to tap under utilized resources.

Ms. Gonsler stated monies are being requested to pay their operating expenses. Mr. Werthman confirmed and explained their strategy is to free up undesignated funds that could be used for other things. Ms. Gonsler asked if their success information would support paying such expenditures. Mr. Werthman confirmed, and stated they were within HUD's rules and regulations in fashioning their request.

The fourth category pertained to housing counseling related programs. No applications were submitted.

The fifth category pertained to economic empowerment and development related programs. The agencies requesting funds in this category were:

1. ComServ, Inc.
2. H.O.M.E.S., Inc.
3. Mount Olive Development Corporation
4. Museum of Discovery & Science
5. Second Chance Society

ComServ, Inc.

Norman Powell, President & CEO of ComServ, Inc., stated they have been assisting individuals throughout the County since 1998. Their mission is to revitalize the social economic, spiritual, and political effectiveness of disadvantaged and underserved communities. He explained they did an assessment regarding community needs of residents located in the zip code of 33311. The purpose was to determine the level of community readiness in order to implement educational programming that would enhance the economic and social position of the individuals in the area. He provided statistics for the subject area. He then explained the assistance that would be offered through the program.

Ms. Gonsler asked if the materials used in their research were copyrighted or developed by the organization. Mr. Powell explained the materials were developed by their organization, and used in conjunction with banking materials. Ms. Gonsler asked why some of the requested funds would be used for operating expenses. Mr. Powell explained some of their expenditures.

Chair Avery Dial asked if new office space was going to be acquired to run the program. Mr. Powell confirmed.

Mr. Karney asked for further clarification of the community service required in order to be eligible for the program. Mr. Powell explained that part of the program was for priority needs to be identified for the community and would be an on-going process.

Mr. Whipple asked how this agency would be different from other credit card counseling services. Mr. Powell stated they would go door-to-door and work within the community.

It was asked if the organization had access to other funding. Mr. Powell stated they use many volunteers and were a small agency.

Ms. Birch asked if churches would be solicited to assist in this work. Mr. Powell stated soliciting churches would be part of their outreach.

Ms. Baer asked about the location of the agency's office. Mr. Powell explained his office was in Inverary, but was very small.

Ms. Locke asked if they would be able to obtain other funding resources. Mr. Powell stated it will be difficult to run the program even if they receive the full funding request, but they would be soliciting funding wherever possible.

H.O.M.E.S., Inc.

Katharine Barry, CEO, introduced Linda Taylor who was their Programs Director. Ms. Barry proceeded to explain their organization, and stated their mission is to provide quality affordable housing to low-income families and individuals with special needs. Another part of their mission is community revitalization that includes economic and community development. Last year they requested rent subsidy for a new rent program for aged-out foster youth, but their request had been declined. They did open those apartments and received funding elsewhere. The economic program they are presently requesting funding for is related to that apartment project.

Linda Taylor stated they had renovated the purchased site. She explained the funding being requested is for the TIL Work Internship Program. This program assists in the transition for independent youth. They are requesting funds to help with the rent obligation, and to fund a full-time position for a job coach/store manager. She explained some of the services they would provide to the young people. She stated they have been awarded funds for eight foster youth positions totaling over \$20,000. She explained the work that would be involved.

Ms. Birch wished the organization the best of luck.

Ms. Baer asked how they arrived at the salary that would be paid to the kids running the business. Ms. Taylor stated they obtained the information from the Community Foundation because they had been doing this type of thing for quite some time. She added that \$7.25 was the current minimum wage.

Chair Avery Dial asked about the line item designated for rent. Ms. Barry explained that it was their impression such information was required. If the facility was not to be used for a thrift store, they would be able to rent the space.

Ms. Gonsler clarified that they were requesting the subsidy for the \$1,000 for rent being lost by not renting the facility to someone else. Ms. Barry confirmed.

Mount Olive Development Corporation

Dr. Rosalind Osgood, President and CEO, stated their mission was to revitalize urban communities by providing strategic programs that promote economic development and create jobs, while focusing on the strengthening of families. She stated that approximately 120 people come to them monthly for assistance. She proceeded to explain the services that would be provided to these individuals. They are seeking assistance to help people obtain jobs. She stated they built a relationship with two industry-based areas that were willing to hire such individuals. They are in the process of building a mixed-use facility on the Sistrunk Corridor containing apartments and a job-based placement center.

Ms. Locke asked about the site for the new facility. Dr. Osgood stated the facility would be located at 1530 NW Sistrunk Boulevard. She advised that the site had been purchased approximately five years ago, and were in a partnership with Broward County.

It was asked what security companies were offering employment opportunities. Dr. Osgood stated they worked with 3-4 different companies. The primary group they are working with was a business consortium associated with their church. It depends whether background history is a factor on individuals assuming positions with the security companies.

Museum of Discovery & Science

Ken Cavendish, President & CEO, stated they have been incorporated since 1977. Their mission is to open pathways to learning for both children and adults. They have internship programs for the disadvantaged, and teen employment programs that include tutoring. Recently, they expanded into serving youth that were transitioning from foster care to independent living. They are applying for funds for six entry-level positions targeting the TIL youth. Such positions could become permanent after the expiration of the grant because they are expanding the museum and will need additional employees. She proceeded to explain the positions they would be hiring. Part of the requested funding would be a match for another grant they were applying for.

Mr. Kimmey asked how many individuals would be applying for the positions. Ms. Cavendish stated there was a procedure to be followed, and she listed some of the criteria that had to be met. TIL youth would be a priority for such hiring.

Ms. Baer asked about the matching grant. Ms. Cavendish explained it was through the Community Foundation of Broward.

Second Chance Society

Lee Burt, Board Chair, stated they had received funding previously from the City. He explained their "Hand Up Program," which works with homeless individuals and low-income individuals. The program assists people in overcoming material barriers to gaining employment. He stated that 59% of the clients served had been successful in their employment. This was based on the individuals they could follow up on.

Category Six dealt with other miscellaneous programs as listed below:

1. Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale – Community Bus Shuttle.

Tam English, Executive Director, stated the monies applied for would be used to expand the present resident bus system that began about 15 years ago. Buses were donated, and residents created the program with various City and County funding. One year ago the County cut the funding, and the Housing Authority took over for that year. He proceeded to explain how the system had been funded by the County. The funds they were applying for would make up the budget shortfall, and would also expand the system for the elderly. He explained it was now a feeder bus. Ridership consists of approximately 150 riders per day which meets the State, City and County standards. They serve about 1100 households within the City. He stated the Housing

Authority was established by the City in 1938, and were completely funded through grants.

Ms. Birch asked what is the cost per rider. Mr. English stated costs were submitted in the application. He referred to Exhibit 5(b). He advised that actual cost was about \$22 per hour. This is assuming that fuel prices do not continue to increase.

Ms. Gonsler asked if riders had to apply for bus passes. Mr. English explained it was a free bus service for anyone. Generally, the bus ran in low-income areas, and in elderly neighborhoods.

Ms. Baer asked how neighborhoods were notified about the service. Mr. English stated that public housing residents were notified on a regular basis, and bus schedules posted at the main terminal. He stated the City of Plantation had a similar type of bus service. Ms. Birch added that various other municipalities had this type of service.

Mr. Kimmey asked if schedules were posted on line. Mr. English stated that it would be on the County's transit web site.

Ms. Espinal asked about the route for the service. Mr. English explained the information regarding the route was submitted in the application packet.

Chair Avery Dial stated that the presentation was insightful. He felt it was important knowing that the system was funded through grants.

Mr. English stated they began with the purpose of providing low-income housing in the City, and this has been done since 1938.

Ms. Batchelder clarified that regarding the rent issue being raised, they have attempted this year to buckle down because last time the City was nailed during the audit because of lack of documentation. There is resistance from some of the organizations to provide detailed information. She stated the Board needed to look at capacity when reviewing their packets. All the organizations are worthwhile. The other portion involves monitoring and compliance. The more detailed the program, the more documentation and monitoring was needed. She advised that staffing was limited for the programs.

Ms. Batchelder stated the allotment available for public services would be approximately \$225,480.

Ms. Birch asked for further clarification regarding reviewing capacity.

Ms. Batchelder explained this is where newer organizations fall behind, and that is why staff suggested the rent reimbursement. If the organizations do not have the capacity to collect the income eligibility slips or the capacity to provide documentation regarding salaries, there is a problem. Staff, therefore, suggested the agencies request the rent reimbursement because there would not have to be a lot of documentation.

Ms. Gonsler stated if she sees rent reimbursement with no connection to the program, she feels that is a funding switch. She did not know how the year's results could be reviewed thoroughly. Ms. Batchelder emphasized that documentation still had to be provided regarding the individuals serviced by the agencies. She proceeded to explain how the process worked.

Other questions were asked regarding information for various positions. Ms. Batchelder clarified that timesheets had to be provided.

Ms. Gonsler asked what other items were difficult for staff to monitor. Ms. Batchelder stated that the most difficult issue was monitoring salaries. She reminded the Board they needed to review the activity the agency was servicing, along with the outcome. Ms. Gonsler asked if HUD had requirements regarding the building of capacity. Ms. Batchelder stated that part of the presentation should have included work experience in regard to the museum's application. She further stated that there were no HUD requirements in that regard.

Ms. Birch asked if there was anything in the packets regarding the previous year's success of programs. Ms. Batchelder stated that such information was normally contained in the agency's statistics. Some agencies were not funded previously, and therefore, numbers would not be obtainable until December of this year. She stated the information should be contained in the narrative. Ms. Birch stated that previously the packet included a question regarding the percentage of grant funds spent on a program. She asked if that had been removed from the application. Ms. Batchelder confirmed. Ms. Birch stated the agency had to inform the Board whether their programs were successful or not. Ms. Batchelder stated that she would check for that information in the 2008/2009 demographics. She further stated there would always be a projected outcome, along with an actual outcome. This information could be provided to the Board.

Ms. Batchelder asked for the original rankings to be returned between the 3rd and 6th of May.

Mr. Whipple asked about the agency that did not make a presentation. Ms. Batchelder stated they would be deleted from the list because they had to attend all meetings. She added that if there were extenuating circumstances, they could make a presentation in May if the Board so desired.

Ms. Batchelder reminded everyone that on Friday, April 30, 2010, there would be a municipal Advisory Board Arts Council meeting to be held at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. She believes they are co-hosting the meeting with the Economic Development Department.

Ms. Batchelder stated there would be two meetings scheduled for the educational program in connection with serving on a Board or Committee for the City. One is scheduled for April 27, 2010, and the other is June 7, 2010.

Good of the Order

Chair Avery Dial adjourned the meeting. The Board unanimously agreed.

There being no other business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,
Recording Secretary