

APPROVED
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
MARCH 12, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
City Commission Chambers, City Hall
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

MEMBERS		OCT 2011/SEPT 2012	
		PRESENT	ABSENT
Donald Karney, Chair	P	6	0
Richard Whipple, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Benjamin Bean	P	1	0
Margaret Birch	P	6	0
Earl Bosworth (arr. 4:06 p.m.)	P	6	0
Wendy Gonsler	P	5	1
Helen Hinton	P	4	2
Jasmin Shirley (arr. 4:03 p.m.)	P	5	1
Kenneth Staab	P	6	0
Joseph Scerbo	A	1	1

Staff Present:

Jonathan Brown, Manager, Housing and Community Development
Denise Greenstein, Administrative Aide, Housing and Community Development
Jeri Pryor, Federal Grants Administrator, Housing and Community Development
Susan Stanton, Housing and Community Development
Amanda Lebofsky, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION

None.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Karney called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- **Quorum Requirement** – As of March 12, 2012, there are 10 appointed members to the Board which means 6 constitutes a quorum. At this time, a quorum is present.

Roll was called by Ms. Lebofsky.

II. WELCOME AND BOARD/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

New member Mr. Bean introduced himself, noting he is an attorney practicing and living in Fort Lauderdale for the past three and a half years.

[Ms. Shirley arrived at 4:03 p.m.]

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES SUMMARY – February 13, 2012

Motion by Vice Chair Whipple, seconded by Ms. Gonsler, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012, meeting as they stand. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. CITY COMMISSION NEWS

Mr. Brown said he would remind Mr. Feldman to visit one of the Board's meetings.

V. CDBG APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

Chair Karney asked the Board members to disclose any conflicts of interest they may have pertaining to the applicants.

Mr. Staab mentioned as a point of information that one of the applicant organizations is his church, and he sits on the Finance Council for that church. Mr. Staab noted, however, that the Council does not discuss this particular matter. Mr. Brown said he had discussed this matter with Mr. Staab, and the church is not necessarily the applicant and the church may receive some benefits. The City Attorney's office advised him on this and similar situations that as long as there is no financial benefit being gained, that there is no potential conflict. Mr. Brown continued that because there is a chance that Mr. Staab's church may be the recipient of any agency that may be recommended and may be funded by the City Commission, does not pose a conflict.

[Mr. Bosworth arrived at 4:06 p.m.]

- **12 of the 25 agencies will each have 3 minutes for presentation and the Board will have 3 minutes for question for each agency.**
- **The remaining are scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012.**

Emergency Food/Shelter Category

1. Hope South Florida, Inc.

Steve Werthman, Director of Program Development, said they are seeking \$50,000 to serve 35 homeless families in their emergency and transitional shelter. Formerly called Shepherd's Way, Hope South Florida is a faith-based nonprofit operating since 1995 that has provided emergency shelter, housing, and support services to thousands of homeless families and individuals.

Mr. Werthman went on to say they are the single largest provider of emergency family shelter in Broward. Their three main goals are to:

- Build hope through one-stop services
- Build housing by expanding shelter and housing
- Build community by creating mentoring opportunities

Their request is for staff and operating funds for the Shepherd's Way family shelter, an 11-unit apartment building where homeless families regain independence. Referrals to this program come primarily from the 211 Broward Homeless Help Line, and go first to the Faith in Action Network of Churches. Case managers work with each family to develop a care plan to assist them in regaining independence as soon as possible. Families are linked to other community services including transportation and health services.

Their main outcome is that 80% of families will transition to long-term housing. During the past year, they successfully administered a CDBG grant through the City. All funds were spent with no unresolved monitoring concerns.

Mr. Werthman concluded with a success story.

Ms. Gonsler noted that Shepherd's Way had received \$41,087 previously, and wondered if they can fund only \$41,087. If it is for the same services, she wondered why there was a 20% increase in funding. Mr. Brown responded that based on staff records, he does not show they received a CDBG allocation last year. Mr. Werthman clarified that it was the year before. He added they had requested \$50,000 that year, but were only awarded \$41,087.

Chair Karney asked why they skipped a year, and Mr. Werthman replied that there was a communication error on their part.

Ms. Gonsler verified that it is only the immediately preceding year that cannot be exceeded. Mr. Brown added that is the case unless they can show there will be an additional service.

Vice Chair Whipple asked Mr. Brown to clarify whether the amount of the consecutive funding was based on the agency or the services provided. Mr. Brown replied that the HUD rule is that they cannot request more funding in the following year unless there are additional services being added to their program. Vice Chair Whipple thought the Board's goal of setting that parameter was to let new agencies come into the program.

2. Raven Ministries

Pastor Calvin Adams, Founder and Director, said his agency is requesting \$50,000 for their administrative costs. The goal of their ministry is to feed hungry people, and their motto is, "Feeding the many that the few may be fed." He explained that if there were

100 people and there were five out of that 100 who needed to be fed, they would feed the 100 so that the five would be fed. They do not have limitations to where they go or who they feed.

Last year, Mr. Adams reported that they received and distributed over 20,000 pounds of food, much of that coming from the U.S. Postal Food Drive. They rent trucks to pick up and distribute the food to surrounding communities such as Pompano, Dania, Miami, Boynton Beach and Lauderhill. This year they are hoping to expand their reach.

Ms. Birch asked if they had considered partnering with the Food Pantry in case they do not get funding. Mr. Adams responded that they supply food pantries and soup kitchens as part of their goal: at this time, they supply four soup kitchens.

Mr. Staab asked if they were a 501(c)3, and Mr. Adams responded affirmatively. Mr. Staab asked what areas of Fort Lauderdale they primarily cover and what number of people are primarily reached. Mr. Adams responded that they give food to five different organizations in the Fort Lauderdale area that have food pantries. Mr. Staab asked for the names of the organizations, and Mr. Adams replied they are CPR Ministries and several others. They pick up at Fresh Market, and also arrange for CPR Ministries to pick up at Fresh Market.

Vice Chair Whipple asked if they were requesting funding from Boynton Beach and Lauderhill also. Mr. Adams said they are on their list, because they do give out food in those areas. Vice Chair Whipple explained that this funding is for the residents of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Adams said this year they targeted Fort Lauderdale, and they rotate their targeted cities every year.

Chair Karney asked if they were planning to base their warehouse in Fort Lauderdale, and Mr. Adams replied affirmatively.

Ms. Birch suggested asking the agencies where they deliver food to report how many people they serve.

Ms. Gonsler wanted to clarify that prior to this year, all expenses have been out-of-pocket donations, and that they have not received funding. She also asked about the request to have \$20,000 out of their \$50,000 request for administrative pay, wondering if that was for an administrator or administrative expenses, and Mr. Adams replied it was for administrative expenses – they need computers, trucks, etc. He added that up to this point, the expenses have been paid out of pocket and from a few donations.

Chair Karney announced that this meeting is just for presentations, and the scoring will not occur until April.

3. Women in Distress

Mary Reidel, President and CEO for Women in Distress of Broward County, said they are requesting \$50,000 to provide 531 emergency nights along with supportive services to Fort Lauderdale residents.

Ms. Reidel stated that their facility recently moved to a new consolidated campus in Deerfield, which doubled their capacity to serve residents throughout the County. A significant number of clients are Fort Lauderdale residents: 29% of new shelter intakes, and the average stay was 48 days. They have a 24-hour emergency crisis line: 1,774 calls representing 41% of the total were City residents.

Ms. Reidel said that even though they serve people from throughout the County, the largest single segment of clients is from Fort Lauderdale. Last year, she said they provided 5,064 shelter nights for clients from Fort Lauderdale, and 575 residents received outreach in children's services. The total number of Fort Lauderdale residents served in the year ending 2011 was 2,456 (one quarter to one third of all the people they serve).

Ms. Gonsler wondered if their nightly cost of \$94 was all inclusive, and Ms. Reidel explained they provide shelter, food, laundry, products and wrap-around counseling, referral and outreach services. She added they are the only state and nationally certified domestic violence center serving all of Broward County. All the services are free and provided in several languages. Many of their clients are children.

Chair Karney asked about the use of funds for contracted services, and Ms. Reidel responded they use funds for everything from baby formula to security guards.

Vice Chair Whipple wondered how they verify residence, and Ms. Reidel said they verify their names and addresses. If funded, she said the monies would be used only for residents of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Staab asked about transportation challenges, and Ms. Reidel said that they have help from Yellow Cab, Tri-Rails, and law enforcement have been very supportive. DSO has a substation on their campus. She stated that they have two agency vans also.

Ms. Shirley was curious what happens after 90 days. Ms. Reidel responded that a plan is developed during the 90-day period so that at the end of that time, they are able to transition to a safe place. Occasionally the period is extended to accommodate unusual needs.

Special Needs Category

1. Covenant House

Jim Gress, Executive Director for Covenant House Florida, said their organization has been serving the needs of runaway and homeless youth under the age of 21 for over 26

years in the community. They operate a 24-hour crisis shelter. If the youth is in need and under 21 years old, they are admitted. They hope to reunite every youth with a family member in a safe environment, but that does not always happen. The Homeless Youth Independence Program is designed to target the ones who cannot go home. The program includes a job readiness component (application, resume, interview, etc.) and financial education. The agency helps them find affordable housing.

Chair Karney mentioned that last year the Board funded them for a different program geared for at-risk pregnant and parenting mothers, and Mr. Gress remarked that these women would still be served, but the program would be expanded beyond just the mothers.

Mr. Staab asked about the geographic background of their clientele, and Mr. Gress said that 2/3 of the young people they serve now are from "this community." He said they are the only shelter for youth under the age of 21 in the City.

Chair Karney was curious if the agency had a job agreement with Riverside Hotel, and Mr. Gress said they do have an agreement that if they the agency has someone who would fit an opening, the Hotel would give consideration to that person. Mr. Gress said there were not any other companies that they had a formalized agreement like that with, but would like to do that.

2. Family Central Inc.

Dani Gueteri, Director of Early Care and Education, said their grant is to hire an Inclusion Specialist to provide technical assistance and training to 26 child care centers located in the 33311 Zip Code area. In the County, there are over 600 child care facilities, and one Inclusion Specialist. Ms. Gueteri said that children are expelled from child care at three times the rate of children in kindergarten in K-12 schools due to behavior and special needs.

Ms. Gueteri noted that many teachers lack training in these centers to deal with people with special needs or challenging behaviors, so they tend to expel such children. The Specialist would provide onsite technical assistance and training to the teachers and directors, changing behavior modification, mentoring and coaching them to keep the children in their facilities. She claimed that if a child is "kicked around" from one center to the next, he will not be ready for kindergarten by age 5.

Ms. Gueteri added that the \$50,000 grant would pay the Specialist's salary and costs, but no administrative costs. She added that in addition to the centers in the 33311 Zip Code, the agency could also provide limited training and site visits for technical assistance to other centers.

Ms. Gonsher wondered why the disabled children would not be going through the assistance program provided by the school district. Ms. Gueteri said that if a child falls

behind a certain score, he will be sent to CDTC Child Find. Most of them return to a child care center due to missing a level by half a point or so. Ms. Gonsher wondered if the children were children with disabilities, and Ms. Gueteri replied that all of them are at-risk and some have disabilities. The parent may elect to leave the child at the center because they are open all day as opposed to school.

Mr. Staab established that if they are funded, they will have one Specialist for 600 schools, minus the 26 schools that are going to receive services from the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Gueteri said that the schools in the 33311 area would receive intensive help. Mr. Staab asked if they were pursuing fund through other means, and Ms. Gueteri responded that they are always looking for additional funds.

Ms. Gonsher asked about their partnership with Broward County Schools, Fiddler's, and CDTC and wondered if she had any supporting documentation for those. Ms. Gueteri said they have had an Memorandum of Understanding with Child Find for the past 10 years, and she can provide a copy if needed.

3. Impact Broward

Diane Smith, Vice President of Development and Programs, noted the agency was formerly called Senior Volunteer Services. The reason for the name change was that they lowered the age of people they are attracting to volunteer to age 55, and 55-year-olds do not necessarily identify with seniors. She said that Impact Broward is the local sponsor of three national senior core programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion and RSVP programs. They also have four additional programs.

Ms. Smith said they are requesting funding for the Senior Companion program. Senior Companions are older adults who meet strict financial income guidelines (less than 200% of the federal poverty guideline). They visit other elderly and disabled adults who reside in Broward County, providing support and companionship once a week for four hours. The program goal is for the volunteer and the people they visit to continue to remain living independently.

Ms. Smith stated they are requesting \$32,090, which is an increase from previous years' requests, because beyond the supportive and companionship service that the Senior Companions have been providing, they are projecting they will provide respite care to ten caregivers and their loved ones with supportive and companionship services. The funding will pay for a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per hour per volunteer plus reimbursements of \$2.00 per day for meals and 40 cents per mile for automobile expenses.

Ms. Gonsher brought up that the agency needs \$34,000 in local funding to receive \$340K in non-local funding. Ms. Smith said they have received funding from United Way, City of Plantation and other foundations. Chair Karney asked how short of their

goal they are (to get matching funds), and Ms. Smith replied they do not know the outcome of their funding requests.

Mr. Staab asked about persons served in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith answered that they have more Senior Companions in the City of Fort Lauderdale than in any other municipality. Last year, 38% were Fort Lauderdale residents. Out of the elderly and disabled adults, 11% resided in the City. She said they verify residency using census tracts.

4. Susan B. Anthony Center

Marcia Current is the Founding CEO for the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, which provides housing, treatment for both homeless families and families in recovery from substance addiction who also have mental health issues.

Ms. Current said they have had a large contract from the County since 1995 to provide mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment for the women, but two years ago the County decided to provide funding only for the children. They are now looking for counseling dollars for the women who come from Fort Lauderdale, and last year they provided services to approximately 80 women from the City.

Ms. Gonsler was curious how the money used for infrastructure (\$3,700) that used to come out of the "big budget" would be reallocated towards the project receiving CDBG funding. Ms. Gonsler also asked about the hourly rate for the medical staff. Ms. Current replied that the rate would be a one-time fee for intake. Ms. Current said the amount they are seeking would cover only a fraction of their program costs.

Mr. Bosworth asked how much funding they had lost from the County and Ms. Current said it was \$405,000 in three-year grants. Chair Karney wondered which specific department the County money came from, and Ms. Current said it came from the Children's Services Board. It was seen as a prevention grant.

Vice Chair Whipple wondered what other municipalities they were receiving CDBG dollars from, and if they were applying for CDBG funds to other municipalities. Ms. Current this is the first, but they will apply to as many as possible in the future.

Mr. Staab asked about the amount of money needed for counseling, and Ms. Current responded that the program is all-day with groups including parenting, trauma therapy, and acupuncture. The therapy takes a lot of time and a lot of specialized work, usually requiring six to 18 months.

Youth Related Programs

1. Broward Performing Arts Foundation

Sharon Brooks, Director of Education, stated they want to continue their partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale with their Reading Readiness through the theatre program. It includes Head Start students and their families at all school sites in the City of Fort Lauderdale. She said their programs have impacted over 2.4 million students in Broward County. Many programs are offered free.

Ms. Brooks explained that the Reading Readiness program uses the theatre as an extension of the classroom and the arts to address literacy in three places: at school, in the home, and at the theatre. Students were given books to keep, and parents were trained in workshops how to read aloud to their children and how to communicate with them, using the books as tools. Study guides for theatre productions were also sent home to the families, and they were published in four languages.

Ms. Brooks elaborated that the program is a collaboration with the Head Start department at Broward County School District. Funding from the CDBG grant would allow them to continue the program into the 2012-2013 school year. This would include approximately 1,000 residents within the City.

Ms. Gonsler asked about their progress in involving children with disabilities in the program, and Ms. Brooks replied inclusion is part of all Head Start programs. Ms. Gonsler asked about students in PLACE, SALT or the Vision program. Ms. Brooks remarked that at this time it is just Head Start children in their program because it is the Head Start department of the School District that is working with the Foundation.

Mr. Staab wondered how many schools they draw from in the County, and Ms. Brooks responded that the program itself reaches out to 25 school sites across the County. However, for this particular grant, she said they are addressing the sites within the City (15).

Ms. Brooks displayed the books they give to the children.

2. ChildNet Inc.

Jodi Lee, Resource Specialist, noted she runs housing and other programs. ChildNet is the agency that handles the foster care system in Broward County, and is contracted with the Department of Children and Family to handle all cases of abuse, abandonment and neglect in the County - approximately 2,000 children at any point in time.

Ms. Lee said that in order for a family to be reunified with its child, there are court-ordered tasks the family has to complete such as adequate housing. In the ChildNet program, they deal with families who have money for rent, but cannot afford the move-in costs. In July 2011 they received 98 referrals for 100 housing vouchers for one month. Since October, they have received 40 more referrals for housing vouchers that they do not have.

Ms. Lee stated that Project Reunification will overcome housing barriers so families can be reunified, and will prevent families from having children removed due to inadequate housing. With the full funding of their request, they could serve 15 families, which would include rent assistance not to exceed three months at \$1,000 per month.

Chair Karney wondered what “inadequate” housing means, and Ms. Lee said it usually means “deplorable” conditions such as cockroaches, bugs in the refrigerator, and non-working toilets. She said the conditions could be due to the tenants or the landlord.

Ms. Gonsler noted that last year’s funding did not become available until October and asked what they had done since then. Ms. Lee said she did not know they could start the project until they were informed that HUD funded it, so they did not start until February. She said they have put one family into housing, and she has two applications on her desk.

Mr. Staab wondered about long-term housing support, and Ms. Lee responded that the case will remain open for six months. They review the case at one month, six months, and one year.

Vice Chair Whipple asked if they currently receive CDBG funding from other municipalities, and Ms. Lee answered in the negative. Vice Chair Whipple wondered if they have a tracking system to make sure the funds would be spent only on Fort Lauderdale residents, and Ms. Lee explained that they do.

Mr. Brown remarked that although the fiscal year began October 1, they did not get agreements back from HUD until mid to late December.

3. Esther’s Resource & International Development

Not present.

[Noting they were five minutes ahead of schedule, the Board recessed at 5:25 p.m. and re-adjourned at 5:35 p.m.]

Chair Karney announced that the last three applicants were not present, but none are required to make a presentation. He asked if the Board would want to incorporate those three agencies into the presentations on the next day if necessary. Mr. Brown noted that it is a few more minutes until Liberia and Mount Bethel were scheduled to speak, and staff had set up specific times with the agencies.

4. Liberia Economic & Social Development

Henry Graham, Executive Director, said they are requesting \$20,000 for a program called “Youth on the Move.” The purpose of the program is to expose youth in school from age 15 and up to various training programs and activities that would motivate them

into deciding on some type of career. They have this program in various parts of the County, and have trained youth in various pursuits such as photography and hair braiding. They teach business finance and how to become entrepreneurs.

Mr. Graham said many of the youth come from broken households with skill-limited parents, and he has received requests to have this program in Fort Lauderdale.

Vice Chair Whipple wondered about the transportation arrangements for children between Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood training sites. Mr. Graham said they have transportation arranged from a pickup point in Fort Lauderdale and a return.

Ms. Gonsler asked what this program provides above what is provided at Sheridan Vocational. Mr. Graham said they serve a mixed group of individuals, but they target students in school. He said Sheridan Vocational program is limited and does not expose the youth to a number of settings. He added they do work with Sheridan Vocational in a number of construction training and weatherization programs.

Ms. Gonsler asked if Sheridan provided the class mentioned in their proposal, or if Liberia provided the class at Sheridan's facility. Mr. Graham replied that it is a joint venture with Sheridan.

Mr. Staab asked about outcomes. Mr. Graham said that they have always been over 25% (usually 30-40%) in placement. They have job coaches to provide job training and jobs for the individuals once they complete training. Mr. Staab wondered who exactly the 25-40% this refers to, and Mr. Graham replied that percentage would be out of a class number.

Ms. Bosworth asked how they determine who receives their services. Mr. Graham said they advertise by way of local media, churches and radio. Most of the time, they have more students than the program can easily accommodate. He continued that they take all who express an interest, because there is always attrition.

Mr. Brown said that Homes Inc. would be willing to present at this meeting if the Board so chose. He added that the last presenter for this meeting, Mount Bethel Human Services, was not present.

Ms. Gonsler said she had not yet read the proposal by Homes, Inc., and did not feel prepared to hear them at this meeting.

After a few moments of waiting, Chair Karney announced that the Mount Bethel Human Services was not yet present, so he proceeded with the agenda.

VI. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Birch said she wished to make a public statement, and have it recorded verbatim, not paraphrased. Ms. Pryor informed her that her request would have to be approved by the City because there is an extra charge associated with that. Mr. Brown added that staff would have to type it up verbatim and provide it to Prototype.

Ms. Birch continued that several instances have occurred which have disturbed her, and she noted that her comments are addressed to Chair Karney. First, she reported that Chair Karney approached her at City Hall, asking her if she would speak to the City Manager about an item discussed at this Board. She said she was "insulted" but did not say anything at the time, attributing it to the Chair's inexperience. Secondly, at the last meeting, she said that Chair Karney said it was her who had requested public records. She did not have a problem with the information being shared with the Board, but did not think it was the Chair's place to inform them. Thirdly, she said that she had been asked by a friend, "Why is the Community Board going to agencies inquiring about Jonathan and Jeri and what kind of work they are performing?" Ms. Birch did not believe anybody on the Board would do that, nor is it the right of the Board to do that. She assured Chair Karney she was not angry with him, but said he is young and inexperienced. She recommended that he "watch what he says when he leaves the dais."

Chair Karney thanked her for her feedback.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Mr. Brown said that they have the information requested by the Board regarding HOPWA - the public records request documentation, and a copy of the RFP issued in 2009-2010, and proceeded to distribute the documents.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

Vice Chair Whipple asked if staff could follow up with the presenters for the next day; if they would not be present, he asked that the others be moved up on the agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Karney adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]