

APPROVED
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
MARCH 13, 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	7	0
Richard Whipple, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Benjamin Bean	P	2	0
Margaret Birch (arr. 4:18 p.m.)	P	7	0
Earl Bosworth	P	7	0
Wendy Gonsler	P	6	1
Helen Hinton	P	5	2
Jasmin Shirley	P	6	1
Kenneth Staab	P	7	0
Joseph Scerbo	A	1	2

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
Jamie Opperlee, 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 13, 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. Opperlee.

II. WELCOME AND BOARD/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Board members introduced themselves.

III. CDBG APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

- **13 of the 25 Agencies will each have 3 minutes for presentation and the board will have 3 minutes for questions for each agency**

Mr. Brown requested that the Board allow the agencies that missed the prior day to have their three-minute presentation at this meeting.

Vice Chair Whipple asked how long they knew of their appointment on the previous day, and Ms. Pryor answered approximately one week, and the times had been confirmed by staff. Vice Chair Whipple objected to them being allowed to do their presentation at this meeting.

Vice Chair Whipple wondered if any of the applicants provided a reason for their absence, and Mr. Glover of Mount Bethel Human Services said he went to the wrong location (his error).

Motion by Ms. Gonsher, seconded by Mr. Bosworth, to allow the presentations, but that they be held at the end of the scheduled presentations. In a voice vote, there was one “no” vote, so Chair Karney asked for roll call vote. In a vote by roll call, the motion passed (7-1) as follows: Mr. Bean, yes; Mr. Bosworth, yes; Ms. Gonsher, yes; Ms. Hinton, yes; Ms. Shirley, yes; Mr. Staab, yes; Vice Chair Whipple, no; Chair Karney, yes.

Housing Counseling Category

1. Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida

Ms. Suzanne Weiss, Associate Director, noted her agency's request is for \$50,000 for homebuyer education and counseling. They feel that education helps people interested in becoming homebuyers qualify and apply for mortgages, avoid predatory loans, and become informed consumers.

Ms. Weiss said the agency provides free eight-hour monthly classes in English and Spanish in Broward County. After the class, one-on-one counseling is provided for those interested. The agency obtains a credit report and prepares an action plan. They propose providing classes to at least 100 low to moderate income individuals, and 50 of those will do one-on-one counseling. At the end of the grant period, their goal is to have 10 of those ready for qualified home ownership.

Vice Chair Whipple verified that the agency is a HUD approved counseling agency. He wondered how they confirm residency for Fort Lauderdale residency, and Ms. Weiss replied they are chartered by Neighbor Works, and all consumers are tracked into a computer program. They also do an affordability study to help get the consumer into a purchase appropriate for their household.

Ms. Shirley asked how the 50 are selected from the 100, and Ms. Weiss said it is up to the consumer to make a phone call to request the counseling. At the end of the eight-hour class, consumers are given a list of items such as tax returns and pay stubs to bring to an appointment. Ms. Weiss added that the number 50 is an average taken from all of their classes over the last year.

Ms. Gonsler asked how they would release the funds for rent that were previously covered elsewhere. Ms. Weiss replied that the grant request is to support work they have already been doing, and they would offset their other administrative dollars with the CDBG funds.

Mr. Staab verified that the number (ten) for qualified consumers was based on averages from the last few years. He asked what number of people have actually purchased a home during the three years the agency has been active in Broward County, and Ms. Weiss answered that last year 500 people purchased homes in the two counties (Broward and Miami-Dade), but did not know the breakdown by County. She added that sometimes the consumers purchase a home without the agency's knowledge, which they discover by searching public records.

Mr. Staab wondered if the consumers can go anywhere to purchase a home or if they are funneled into an affiliate company, and Ms. Weiss said they also do affordable housing development and do promote those opportunities to the buyer. However, the buyer is free to make a choice in any area. She said in the City of Fort Lauderdale, they would promote the City's affordable housing opportunities, such as NSP homes.

Ms. Shirley pointed to funding numbers from pp. 19-20 of the proposal, and wondered where the "other \$50,000" was. Ms. Weiss said she did not have her budget with her, but other funding may come from Neighbor Works, fees earned, or other grant funding.

[Ms. Birch arrived at 4:18 p.m.]

Other Category

1. Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation

Ken Roland, Pool Operations Coordinator, said he has been involved with the Drowning Prevention Initiative since 1986. He stated that drowning is the Number One cause of death for children under the age of four. Florida leads the nation in drownings, and Broward County leads the State of Florida, and the 33311 Zip Code area leads the nation in drownings. He said the young children, seniors, and "tweens" are the most numerous victims.

Aquatica is going to address all three segments. They are requesting \$50,000 to stem drowning statistics in Broward County, and decrease the African-American drowning

rate by 5%. They also want to increase job recruitment and inform people about water prevention and awareness.

Ms. Birch asked about the difference between Swim Central and other programs. Mr. Roland explained that ECAS (Every Child a Swimmer) is supported by Kiwanis and Swim Central originated with a pilot program called Every Child a Swimmer, which he started in Pompano Beach.

Mr. Roland said the drowning statistics in 33311 and 33312 are “prolific.”

Ms. Hinton asked where the drownings occur in that Zip Code, and Mr. Roland said they mostly occur in pools, canals, lakes, and the ocean.

Mr. Staab wondered how many pools the program supervises, and Mr. Roland said there are five facilities in the community pools in the City, and most are in the two Zip Codes mentioned.

Ms. Gonsler noted she did not see young children represented highly on the list of drowning victims, and Mr. Roland said his program would be a three-prong attack. He explained some of his teaching techniques. Ms. Gonsler asked where the classes are offered for the older population, and Mr. Roland said there are two facilities - the Basque pool (on 19th Street) and the Women’s Federated Center, who will refer individuals to the pool.

Ms. Birch asked if he worked at the non-Fort Lauderdale schools in the 33311 Zip Code, and Mr. Roland responded that he is “passionate” about drowning prevention and reaches out nationally and internationally. Ms. Birch wondered if he worked with Lauderdale Manors and Northside schools, and Mr. Roland replied that he does target every school in the 33311 Zip Code that is within the Fort Lauderdale City limits. Ms. Birch asked if his program was the one with the nursery schools offering swim lessons, and he replied affirmatively.

2. Broward Housing Solutions

Lisa Vecchi, CEO, introduced David Optekar, COO. Ms. Vecchi said they are seeking funding for affordable rental housing that addresses low-moderate income families with disabilities who also have a mental illness. The average income of their families is no more than \$698 per month.

Ms. Vecchi stated that they own and operate 19 properties throughout Broward County and currently house 259 residents and families. They also collaborate with mental health providers for case management support. She said the support they provide reduces financial strain on taxpayers and creates productive citizens.

Ms. Vecchi remarked there are 600 more homeless persons throughout the County since 2010: 20% are diagnosed with a mental illness; 55% have a disability. Ms. Vecchi said that 78% of their tenants were formerly homeless, 93% have not been hospitalized, 92% of the tenants show progress in medication management, and 21% have reintegrated into society, seeking or finding employment or volunteering. It costs only \$19.12 per day to house someone, whereas incarceration costs \$115 per day, and hospital stays are an average of \$350 per day.

Mr. Staab asked how many of their properties are in the City, and Ms. Vecchi answered seven. Mr. Staab then asked how many of the families were Fort Lauderdale residents, and Ms. Vecchi said that 33 of them could be addressed with the \$50,000 funding, but there are 90 clients in Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Gonsler wondered how their services are sustainable if they are only covering three months rent with the CDBG grant. Ms. Vecchi replied the average stay of the permanent housing clients is 3.5 years. The CDBG dollars will assist up to three months for 33 clients. She added they do not have in-house services, but they collaborate with other agencies for case management.

Ms. Gonsler was curious how they bring in the newly homeless if people stay for an average of 3.5 years. Ms. Vecchi said with growth of buildings, they are 97% occupied. They also work with the community to get referrals of people who can live independently with minimal case management, and some move on to home ownership.

3. Community Adoption Program

Kathy Salahuddin, Program Director, remarked they are a grass roots organization working for the community seniors, individuals and families to enhance the community's quality of life. They are currently developing a community garden to develop health awareness, enhance the community through economic development, education and entrepreneurship. This program will provide a nutritional food source for low-income individuals, so that they have more money for home ownership and family self-sufficiency.

Ms. Salahuddin commented on statistics on the effects of community gardening on crime reduction, income opportunities and economic development. The garden will also help preserve green space, conserve natural resources and act as catalyst for community involvement and redevelopment.

Ms. Salahuddin detailed their revised budget. Their request of \$30,000 is for payroll of \$3,600, operation expenses at \$4,000, program supplies at \$2,200, office supplies at \$2,200, and materials at \$18,000.

She distributed copies of the budget revisions and also photos of a recent activity held at the site.

Ms. Shirley asked about the number of families who would participate, and Ms. Salahuddin said they hope to have 100 families. The agency distributes information in the community to attract participants. She mentioned that they have fencing and secure gates.

Ms. Gonsler was curious what their other funding source was, and Ms. Salahuddin said it was out of pocket.

Ms. Hinton asked how they would choose the people who would receive other food (from other sources), and Ms. Salahuddin replied they currently provide food for 800-1,000 people, but with the community program, whatever they grow they can take home.

Ms. Pryor asked for the exact location of the garden, and Ms. Salahuddin said it was 2224 NW Sixth Street.

Ms. Birch noted that the community is very excited about the project.

4. Light of the World Clinic

Sandra Lozano, Office Administrator, said they provide "quality health care" for Broward County residents, and want to expand their services to Fort Lauderdale clients. She said health care comes last for many people due to financial burdens. They have 43 licensed providers in their clinic and 173 non-licensed providers (mostly medical students). They provide free medical care, medication, free diagnostic testing, and reduced cost laboratory tests.

Ms. Lozano distributed a handout with statistics on their services. They have 206 volunteers providing 4,500 hours, an equivalent of \$675,000 of service. Noting they are on emergency room diversion lists, the volunteer service also represents 6,445 doctor to patient visits that did not go to the emergency room.

Ms. Gonsler verified that the \$86,000 was based on the cost of providing services to Fort Lauderdale residents. Ms. Lozano said they have seen an increase in their clientele from Fort Lauderdale.

Vice Chair Whipple was curious if they have applied for CDBG dollars from any other municipalities, and Ms. Lozano replied they did through the City of Oakland Park, where their request is \$35,000, although she said they rarely award more than \$15,000.

Ms. Hinton asked about language translation services, and Ms. Lozano said they provide communication in Spanish, Portuguese and Creole.

5. Safe Water Instruction Means Safety (SWIMS)

Bruce Wigo, President of SWIMS, said the foundation was established in the 1990s along with Swim Central to address drowning of children under the age of four. Since 1999, they have taught over two million swim lessons to over 250,000 children in the County, and not one of them has drowned.

Mr. Wigo said they are a pass-through volunteer organization, with no paid staff. The office is housed at the International Swimming Hall of Fame and their accountant does all the financials. They raise money through grants such as McDonald's, City of Pompano Beach, CDBG.

Mr. Wigo said that Swim Central is a Broward County funded operation that gets much of its support from the Child Services organization, but it does not pay for transportation for children from schools to pools.

Mr. Wigo recalled that several years ago, they received a grant from this group, but had a reporting problem due to a miscommunication regarding residency issues. Due to that, they turned the grant back in. They are now confident that with enough time they will be able to comply with the reporting requirements.

Ms. Hinton wondered since they applied for \$17,000 but did not use it, if that would apply to the three-year regulation. Mr. Brown said in this particular case the funds were awarded two years ago, and they did not receive any last year, so they are eligible to request additional funds. Mr. Brown clarified that the documentation that was lacking before related to HUD, and they worked through that issue with them.

Ms. Gonsler asked if they provide programs for children with disabilities, and Mr. Wigo said they do have such programs.

Mr. Staab wondered if the funds also will cover transportation for students from the schools throughout the County as well as Fort Lauderdale schools, and Mr. Wigo answered affirmatively, noting that it would also pay for lessons in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Birch was curious what the difference was between Mr. Roland's program and Mr. Wigo's program. Mr. Wigo said his program provides funds so that the City of Fort Lauderdale Department of Parks and Recreation can pay for the instructors to give the swim lessons. He said the Board of Directors helped design the program at Swim Central. Mr. Wigo added they provide the funds also for the Broward County School Board, Swim Central and the SWIMS Foundation. They provide the bridge between the School Board, the pools, and the instructors, although they are primarily responsible for transportation.

Mr. Wigo said they have a partnership with over a hundred elementary and pre-schools in Broward County. It is up to the principal to determine participation in the program. He noted there may be students in schools such as Wingate who are Fort Lauderdale

residents and they would be eligible for the program. He added that his program is for summer, not during the school year.

Ms. Birch then asked what the difference was between Mr. Roland's program, Mr. Wigo's program, and the aquatic program related to the Swimming Hall of Fame. Mr. Wigo said the Swimming Hall of Fame has an outsourced swim coach who has his own people and it is not necessarily relegated to residents of the City. The facility is used by Swim Central to bring children from several schools such as Virginia and Truman Young, but is not the best location to transport children to due to the travel time. He added that the Hall of Fame pool is a municipally operated pool; the museum is a nonprofit organization that is international in scope.

Ms. Gonsler wondered if the Board funded his organization, would it be like writing a check and Mr. Wigo turning around and writing the check to Mr. Roland to provide the services. Mr. Wigo answered affirmatively, although he has not seen Mr. Roland's application.

Ms. Shirley brought up an aspect of funding, and Mr. Wigo said they do matching funds, and the total to service the children from the City of Fort Lauderdale is \$38,000.

Vice Chair Whipple verified that the City of Fort Lauderdale teaches the swim lessons, and he wanted to know if Mr. Wigo's project would provide transportation. Mr. Wigo said not the transportation, they also pay for the instructors. He said in the past, they have written a check to the Department of Parks and Recreation, who in turn pay the instructors to provide the lessons (which is extra work).

Mr. Brown clarified that the monies for the SWIMS Foundation could not benefit the same clients as Mr. Roland's project. He said they would have a conversation with both agencies.

Economic Development Category

1. Family Net Inc.

Tamara Moore, Executive Director, said that Family Net Inc. provides services to low-income and at-risk communities. She said they are requesting funds to establish a program called "Each One Reach One Initiative," which will help women who have been victims of domestic violence become self sufficient. Ms. Moore said they would provide job training and other tools for job readiness. They have modules relating to job preparedness, computer skills and credit repair.

Ms. Moore said they plan to provide bus passes, clothing vouchers, and childcare vouchers. They collaborate with WorkForce 1, the Health Department, and the African American Research Library. She remarked that the clients can use agency computers for work searches and to apply for social services.

Vice Chair Whipple asked if they partner with Women in Distress, and Ms. Moore responded that if they get funded, they will refer clients to them and vice versa.

Mr. Staab wondered how they arrived at 30 for their service population number. Ms. Moore answered they wanted to start small.

Ms. Hinton asked where they were located, and Ms. Moore replied they collaborate with the Lighthouse Seventh Day Adventist Church at 441 SW 27th Avenue.

Ms. Moore said they are requesting \$50,000 in CDBG funds because of all the different things they want to do. Ms. Shirley suggested they correct p. 19 of the application.

Mr. Bosworth asked if their collaborations were formal agreements, and Ms. Moore replied they are verbal commitments. Mr. Bosworth also wondered where their other funding comes from. Ms. Moore stated they have received funding from United Way, Pepsi and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Mr. Staab asked Ms. Moore what her history was helping people in need, and she said she is a licensed social worker. She said she used to work for DCF, and she was exposed to victims of domestic violence through that job.

2. Jack & Jill Children's Center

Shannon Prohaszka, Executive Director, said their mission is to try to break the cycle of poverty for low-income working families in Broward County through holistic wraparound services, stabilizing and educating the entire family and community. She said they have space for 170 children and 90% are from single mother households with an average of two to three children at home and with an average annual income of \$24,000.

Ms. Prohaszka stated that in the 1990s Jack & Jill's Board created a future scholarship fund which allows families to remain in the workforce. Every year Jack & Jill raises over \$125,000 to support the fund. They ask the families for accountability: each family is required to work a minimum of 30 hours per week, and they have to participate in family programs.

Ms. Prohaszka described their early childhood program, which offers curriculum, screenings, resources and referral. Their program is one of only two that are nationally accredited in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Prohaszka also said the parents are required to receive education in various subjects, ranging from family strengthening to prevention abuse.

Ms. Prohaszka concluded by saying that their request for funding is for the scholarship program.

Ms. Shirley asked when and how the parents participate in the mandated programs if they are working. Ms. Prohaszka said the programs are offered in the evening once a week, and child care and free dinner is provided. If the parent works at night, someone will work with them one on one.

Ms. Gonsler wondered how much full tuition would be without the scholarship, and Ms. Prohaszka said it depends on what age group they would be enrolling in, but the infant program is most expensive at \$175/week. The least expensive program is \$100/week.

Ms. Gonsler was curious if there were really 16,000 children on the wait list, and Ms. Prohaszka said that was true and applied to children eight and younger throughout the County. She said 11,000 children right now are receiving subsidized dollars.

Ms. Shirley wondered how the parent program was funded. Ms. Prohaszka replied there are other funds that provide dollars for that program. Ms. Shirley was curious what would happen to a child if the parent did not attend the mandated program. Ms. Prohaszka explained that parents are told upfront that the program is mandatory. Very rarely, parents do not attend and they are given a window of time to change their mind, but if they do not attend, they are no longer in the program.

3. Jireh Outreach & Community Development

Eugena Welch, Director, said her nonprofit established in 1996. They primarily provide transitional housing, supportive services and case management to homeless individuals and families in Broward County.

Ms. Welch said they are seeking funding to add a new component to fund the salaries, fringe benefits, rental space and utilities for the employment preparation training program. It will target 25 low to moderate income individuals residing in Fort Lauderdale. It will consist of GED, job training and retention services, short term shelter, and referrals and linkages to other community agencies.

Ms. Welch explained they want to fill gaps in community services for homeless individuals. The office will be located at 1400 NW Sixth Street in Fort Lauderdale. They said they would offer services three days a week, two hours a day, and give them case management and some transportation assistance (bus passes).

Ms. Gonsler wondered if they currently have a physical location or office space, and Ms. Welch said they are operating from one of the transitional homes, as their prior building was closed. They will be acquiring the NW Sixth Street location on the next day.

4. Homes Inc.

Linda Taylor spoke on behalf of Katherine Barry. Ms. Taylor said their mission is to provide community and economic development benefiting at-risk and disadvantaged residents in Broward County. The programs include affordable home ownership, rentals, neighborhood revitalization strategies; they also supportive housing and self-sufficiency programs for youth who have aged out of foster and relative care.

Ms. Taylor stated that the program they wish to fund with the CDBG grant is the Employability Skills Model, for ages 18-24. They receive referrals from HANDY, Childnet, SOS and other providers in Broward County. Mr. Taylor said their offices are located at the intersection of NE Seventh Avenue and 13th Street in Fort Lauderdale. The program's purpose is to teach the young people basic job skills and job placement norms, and they are placed in a paid internship program, which is funded by private foundation grant.

Ms. Taylor went on to say that the total program cost for this year is \$177,500, for which they are asking \$50,000. They are leveraging with funding from private foundations. She commented she is only aware of one other agency that provides specific job coaching for this population.

Ms. Taylor stated that unemployment for youth after foster care is believed to be around 50%, and by age 23-24, 64% earn wages below the poverty level.

Two years ago, Ms. Taylor said they opened a thrift store which serves as an employability skills model, and they provided job coaching and counseling to 27 TIL youth, and paid internships to 23 youth. Their facility includes, in addition to the thrift store, a community garden, residences for the young people and offices.

Ms. Gonsler asked if this was the third year this agency has come for funding and Ms. Taylor said it was, but they only received funding once. Ms. Gonsler recalled that the first year they applied, they envisioned they would be self-supporting from the thrift store. She recalled there was a delay due to permitting, and asked Ms. Taylor why they are not self supporting yet. Ms. Taylor replied that the funding was delayed for the construction of the project; they opened the store in November of 2011. She said she worked with the youth outside the scope of the store. Ms. Taylor forecast that they will be self-sufficient after two years running the store. She explained that the funding they are requesting is not for the store – it is to primarily support the job coach who will specifically work with the young people.

At the request of Ms. Taylor, "Margaret" detailed that the store open was delayed. Their revenue projection for 2011 – 2012 was \$113,000; they are looking for a profit of \$34,800 on an annual basis. At this point, they may recognize a profit in the first year, but they are not there yet.

Ms. Birch asked what they sell, and Margaret replied that they do not sell clothing, but do sell jewelry, household appliances and furnishings, dishes and so forth.

Ms. Hinton verified that the thrift store profit has nothing to do with the grant request. Ms. Gonsler remembered that the internships for the young adults would happen at the thrift store, but Ms. Taylor said it was never designed to support the intern salaries, and she said they have multi-year grants for the salaries.

5. Museum of Discovery and Science

Kim Cavendish, President and CEO, remarked they have a transition to independent living program. She said 120 youth are aging out of foster care every year in the County, and 46% of them do not have a high school diploma, 25% have been homeless at some point, and 42% are already parents. They are less employable, less likely to be employed, and more likely to rely on public assistance.

Ms. Cavendish said they received seed funding from the Community Foundation to start a program and have continued with the help of other funding. They have provided year-long internships to 19 interns, four who are still in the program. The budget for the next year will support six new interns and a part-time supervisor. The funds they seek from CDBG have already been confirmed for matching funds from one donor, and they expect funding again from a third donor.

Ms. Cavendish commented they have a strong partnership with HANDY (Helping Abused Neglected Disadvantaged Youth) to recruit the interns from the TIL population, and have broadened the network to include ChildNet and Flight Center.

Ms. Cavendish described their program: incoming youth are exposed to a variety of jobs around the museum to help discover their abilities, and are then given a specialized position for the remainder of the nine months. They proceed at progressively higher skill levels, becoming more employable. She mentioned that four of their former interns are now on their permanent staff.

Mr. Staab asked about the graduates other than the four who work at the Museum, and Ms. Cavendish said many have gone on to successful jobs. Some continue their education.

Ms. Shirley asked how the youth are referred to their program, and Ms. Cavendish said they work with HANDY, Flightnet and ChildNet.

6. Second Chance Society

Robert Coyle, President and Board Chair, said his organization was founded in 2001 to help people reach self-sufficiency. They started the hand-up program, which helps homeless people reach self-sufficiency by removing obstacles or barriers to employment. These barriers may include clothing, tools, and ID cards. They have helped over 2400 clients since they opened, and for the first five months of the City's

fiscal year they have helped 55 clients. He continued that, according to their most recent audit, 89% of all monies received was directly attributed to helping clients.

Mr. Coyle commented that Second Chance has two paid employees, and have 2900 volunteer hours per year. Clients are referred by other community agencies and are then interviewed for appropriateness. Once they are approved, they track their outcomes at one month, six months and one year following a grant award. Several of the partner agencies are 211 Broward, BPHI, Salvation Army, Faith Farm, and Veterans' New Life Haven. United Way is also a funding partner.

Vice Chair Whipple asked if they have a maximum amount given per client for assistance, and Mr. Coyle responded that it is usually \$300.

Noting that the proposal talked about tools and clothing and such items, but the request was for salary and benefits, Ms. Gonsler asked for elaboration. Mr. Coyle stated it takes a lot of time to get the clients established in the program, and the salaries are used for that part of program administration.

Paula Vickers, also from Second Chance, remarked that when they met with City staff, staff recommended that they ask for salaries this year. Some of the items they had originally thought of requesting money for turned out not to be viable requests. Mr. Brown commented that staff met individually with every agency who submitted an Intent to Apply. He added that they recommended to all agencies to put in administrative dollars because smaller items have been difficult to quantify.

7. Urban League of Broward County

Courtney Biscardi, Vice President of Programs, noted they provide services to low and moderate income families to improve their economic status. She said they have applied for \$50,000 for Employment Services and plan to work on a family engagement strategy to have a whole household impact. They look at what supports are necessary besides a job to stabilize a household, such as public benefits and household conditions. Ms. Biscardi said they use the Center for Working Family models, which includes income support, career coaching, education and training. After stabilization in that area, other asset building opportunities are examined.

Ms. Biscardi stated they use a high-end data management system (Efforts to Outcomes) to track specific data about each client, including residency.

She continued they are building a Community Empowerment Center adjacent to the African-American Research Library and will then be able to provide additional services to those residents in the City. At this time, 8% of their clientele are from Fort Lauderdale, primarily because they are hindered by funding.

Vice Chair Whipple asked about the numbers of Fort Lauderdale residents served, and Ms. Biscardi replied it is approximately 50 clients. She added they have not sought funding from other municipalities, but they do have United Way support and in-kind donations from Children's Services Council.

Ms. Gonsler pointed out that HUD may not allow funding for indirect costs, and Ms. Biscardi said she may modify that. Ms. Pryor stated that staff will let Ms. Biscardi know if it is ineligible, and Mr. Brown instructed her to break out the costs.

Mr. Staab asked staff if they had given advice to applicants regarding rent, utilities and those types of infrastructure costs. Mr. Brown responded they had given thought, but not direction, to the applicants. He said it is permissible for the CDBG grants to pay for administrative costs. They have been "creative within the HUD guidelines" to make sure that if agencies are taking on additional programs, HUD is paying its fair share.

Chair Karney noted that concluded the presentations scheduled for this date, and they would hear the presentations that were missed the prior day.

Youth Related Programs Category

1. Esther's Resource & Development International Inc.

Errol Durrant, Director, introduced a colleague, Daphne Creary, who started the agency. Mr. Durrant said they help a lot of families who need assistance, and they are focusing on a youth program. The youth program will be located at 251 SW 11 Avenue at Las Olas Worship Center.

Mr. Durrant remarked that the impetus for this youth program was the 150 individuals they are helping "unofficially" in another program. The CDBG grant would help them accelerate the program helping these youth. The grant would be used mostly for professional services to augment their volunteers.

Ms. Shirley asked how many they plan to train in this program, and Mr. Durrant quoted a "conservative" number of 60 for the first year.

2. Mount Bethel Human Services

Rosby Glover remarked that this agency was founded in 1993 due to over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. The first program was Teen Alliance with Clergy throughout Broward County to help prevent juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Glover stated that although they still have a prevention program, their focus now is on correction. The project they are seeking to fund is called Project LIVE (Learning Interventions Vital to Existence), which is a "missing link" in services to address clients

aged 10-18 re-entering the community from the justice system. He continued that the recidivism rate is high if there is not some intervention in a timely manner.

Ms. Shirley was curious how many individuals they would serve in this particular program, and Mr. Glover said they would serve 25. He continued that the cost to incarcerate a youth is about \$30,000 per year, and they are asking only for \$2,000 per client.

Mr. Staab asked how they arrived at the target number of 25, and Mr. Glover explained they want to make sure they are very successful in what they do. They even go into the homes and assist in family communication, so it is an intensive process.

Mr. Staab inferred from the application that Mr. Glover felt most of the dollars currently being spent to address the issues are not working, and Mr. Glover commented that was an accurate assessment. He was told by people in the Department of Juvenile Justice that Project LIVE would be the missing link.

Ms. Hinton wondered if they utilize a unique parenting program. Mr. Glover responded that they use the Effective Black Parenting Model, a nationally recognized science-based program. He noted it is also effective with families of other ethnicities.

Chair Karney announced that concluded the presentations.

Mr. Staab wanted clarification from staff regarding presentations for The Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation and the SWIMS program. Mr. Brown responded that the SWIMS funding in part would pay instructors operating at the City of Fort Lauderdale pools. He said staff would make sure they were not double-paying on the children, and both could be funded. He added they are two swimming programs that will tap into the same client base.

Vice Chair Whipple, addressing Mr. Staab, noted that due to the process that takes place under HUD requirements, the discussion that he needs clarification on needs to come from the Board. The staff needs to remain neutral and cannot provide guidance. Mr. Staab remarked he was not looking for help from staff in particular, but was just looking for clarification.

Ms. Gonsler verified that the Board agreed to start with the funding of the highest scored application within each of the categories (but not necessarily at their requested amount). Then, should there be funding left over, they would move on to others on a case by case basis.

Ms. Gonsler then asked if they know the amount available for funding, and Mr. Brown said it was estimated to be \$169,000. Mr. Brown explained that the City is allowed to use no more than 15% of its total CDBG allocation toward public services, which is

anticipated to be \$1.58M. The City also funds Fair Housing (\$15,000) and Homeless Prevention (\$50,000) off the top of the public services allowance.

Ms. Birch was troubled that the applicants with the most money will probably get the highest scores.

There was a discussion about the swimming programs and the transportation involved. Ms. Gonsher suggested putting the two swim proposals back into the context of the needs of Fort Lauderdale as a City with unmet needs and diminishing resources. She continued that she did not think the highest points would necessarily go to the biggest agencies that have the grant writers. She believed some of the less polished presentations did show promise.

Vice Chair Whipple noted that Ms. Gonsher's earlier comment regarding the thrift store sustainability was correct.

IV. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whipple wanted to discuss ways of improving the process for next year.

Mr. Brown informed the Board that the City Commission wants recommendations on performance indicators for those agencies that will be recommended for approval. He said staff could provide them with performance indicators (for discussion purposes) that staff has devised.

Ms. Pryor noted that even though the budget year for CDBG agencies begins October 1, they cannot reimburse until HUD actually approves the funding.

Ms. Gonsher wondered when the Board should turn in their scores. After discussion, the Board agreed by consensus on March 30.

Ms. Pryor reviewed the items for the agenda:

- Score and rank CDBG projects
- Performance Indicators will be determined
- Improvements for the next applications
- HOPWA discussion (the logistics for the Board for the RFPs)

Chair Karney asked if anyone had Old Business or New Business, and none was heard.

For the Good of the Order, Chair Karney said he had an item.

Chair Karney read a prepared statement addressed to Ms. Birch. He recounted how long he had served on this Board and noted his dedication. He upbraided Ms. Birch for addressing him in the manner she did the previous day. Regarding her comment about the City Manager, he said that was "in no way relevant" to this Board. As far as the

public records request comment was concerned, Chair Karney said that asking for public records is in itself public information. He went on to say that the Board is entering a new era with their HOPWA responsibilities. They have to make sure the agencies make the best use of the money the Board awards them. He emphasized that he has no intentions of giving any agency any money without asking certain questions first. He asked Ms. Birch how many HOPWA agencies she had visited on her own, and he asked her to go with him to visit the last two agencies on his list. He informed Ms. Birch of the questions he asked staff at the agencies, and noted he was not digging around for information on City staff. He told Ms. Birch she should have spoken to him about her concerns in a private setting with staff, rather than making a show in front of this Board for the record.

Ms. Shirley suggested to Chair Karney that he consider giving his questions on the agencies to staff and let staff get the information directly from the agency, or review the records. She said the data itself is what they need for the HOPWA process, and they cannot involve themselves on the agency grounds. She added the Board needs to remain neutral.

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Karney at 6:45 p.m.

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