

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, January 21, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Angela Manahan Ilori, Bill Lenehan, Marc Meulman, Sandra Sheppard, Mike Thompson, Amy Tuley, and Logan Wessendorf (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Elma (Pat) Maye

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joanne Willson

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 7, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Meulman, Thompson and Tuley noted some necessary changes to the Human Services Funding Evaluation Criteria Form, which included: a need to clarify the wording in criterion #9a, a typographical error in the note for criterion #8, and a need to reference where to find documents referenced in criterion #3.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Memorandum regarding FY 2010-11 Human/Public Service Funding Review and Options: Staff summarized the communication to City Manager Evans that included the City Administration overview of: funding available compared to applications received, scores and ranking of applications, and several potential funding options.
2. FY 2010-11 Human/Public Service Funding Board application scores and rankings: Tuley reviewed the application score table included in the agenda, and Lenehan provided his scores, which provided a revised Board average as follows: Portage Community Center General Fund (PCC)-223; PCC CDBG Fund-213; YWCA-199; Catholic Family Services-201; Housing Resources-195; Gryphon Place-173. Thompson noted the scores and rankings were similar to the City Administration. Meulman advised the Board should try to reach consensus on the rankings, as opposed to individual Board member scores. Tuley suggested that Board review high and low applicant scores to proceed with reaching a consensus on rankings. There was Board consensus that PCC ranks first in both the CDBG and General Fund categories. While the average score for the YWCA was slightly lower than Catholic Family Services, after reviewing individual Board member scores, there was agreement that clientele of the YWCA were more at-risk and vulnerable, and the proposed services address a critical need. Therefore, the Board consensus was to rank the YWCA second. Several Board members noted that amongst the YWCA, Catholic Family Services and Housing Resources, there was only a small variation in score, and all agencies provide important services to at-risk populations. Tuley asked if there was Board consensus that Gryphon Place ranked fifth. While there was Board consensus on the ranking of Gryphon Place, Lenehan, Thompson, Durian and Wessendorf indicated the 2-1-1 service provides an important "portal" for persons searching for assistance, especially those unfamiliar with the network of social services. In addition, the applicant is requesting a minimal amount in comparison to the number of Portage residents served. Tuley, Meulman, and Sheppard noted the Gryphon Place average score is much lower than other applicants, and service providers and clients familiar with social services may not utilize the 2-1-1 service a great extent. With regard to the final ranking of Catholic Family Services and Housing Resources, Lenehan noted that Catholic Family Services serves a lower number of Portage clients in comparison to Housing Resources, and Ilori noted that Housing Resources provides important homeless prevention services. Tuley noted the ARK shelter serves primarily economically disadvantaged youth that cannot yet survive on their own. After further discussion, Meulman moved, and Durian supported a motion that the Board vote on the ranking of Catholic Family Services and Housing Resources. Upon voice vote, the Board ranked Catholic Family Services third and Housing Resources fourth. The Board determined further discussion regarding funding for applicants should be held off until the February 4th meeting.
3. FY 2010-11 CDBG Program Conflict of Interest disclosure by Elma (Pat) Maye: Chairperson Tuley referenced the email communication from Pat Maye, and staff clarified that the communication serves as official disclosure, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding her conflict of interest as Ms. Maye works for the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan, which is a subrecipient of CDBG Program funding. Further, the email indicates that Ms. Maye will abstain from all discussion and voting with regard to the FY 2010-11 CDBG Program human/public service funding and FY 2010-11 Annual Action Plan.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.