

## CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, November 4, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Durian, Pamela Gilchrist, Elma (Pat) Maye, Marc Meulman, Genna Nichols, Sandra Sheppard, Amy Tuley, Kyle Huitt (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Angela Manahan Ilori

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 7, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted, 8-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Human/Public Services Available to Portage Citizens – Public Education – Ad Hoc Committee report: Durian reported on her meeting with Diane Schrock of the Portage Community Center (PCC). PCC has not surveyed their clients regarding knowledge of human services, but has revised its intake form, and would be willing to survey its clients for a one-month period. PCC staff also recommended contact with social justice committees of local churches, and managers of affordable housing apartment complexes. Meulman indicated that based on feedback from current grantees, residents seem to be getting most information from family and friends. Perhaps the Board should instead focus education and outreach to public and private institutions such as city/county/state agencies, schools, service providers and churches. Sheppard added that the internet is also important. Tuley recommended the Board hold a forum with current grantees and invite representatives from the larger community such as school counselors, church pastors, and other entities with ties to residents in need. It was suggested that a forum could be planned in the late summer/fall 2011. The Board also discussed developing a brochure of services. Staff re-iterated there already exist several resources such as the Emergency Services Guide developed annually by the United Way and Gryphon Place. After further discussion, the Board decided to have additional discussion regarding this matter at upcoming Board meetings.

Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2010) activities – Board discussion: Meulman reported that a group of fifth grade students from Lake Center Elementary attended the October 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to read and accept the Red Ribbon Week proclamation. An article for the proclamation was also featured in the Portage Gazette. Staff noted the city and Portage Public Schools will also produce a substance abuse prevention video for Portage Cable Access.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Overview of Kalamazoo County Public Transportation Issues: Bill Schomisch, Metro Transit: Mr. Schomisch provided an update regarding ridership trends, proposed Portage route changes, and other activities related to fixed route bus services. While ridership for the system overall is down 13% from 2009, ridership rates improved in September 2010 and along Portage routes over the past few months. Revenues are also down due to reductions in the state gas tax. With regard to investments, 70 new bus shelters are on schedule to be replaced or constructed in November, with several along Portage routes, which are funded with federal stimulus dollars. In addition, five new hybrid electric buses are being purchased with grant funds. With regard to the Portage route changes, the modifications proposed in the Comprehensive Operations Analysis are recommended for implementation following 12 public meetings, two of which were held in Portage. It is anticipated that review and approval by the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority and Transit Authority Board will occur in November 2010 respectively, with final approval by the Kalamazoo City Commission in late December 2010. Implementation to the route changes are planned for February 2011. Schomisch did note that a group of Portage residents expressed concern regarding the elimination of the East Centre Avenue bus route and had indicated a petition would be submitted, but none had yet been received.

2010-11 Goals Update-Board Discussion: The Board reviewed and approved transmittal of the draft memo to City Council, with one minor revision, 8-0.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:** Lenehan indicated he understood that City Council appointed him to serve on the Metro Transit ADA Advisory Committee through October 2011. Lenehan also recommended that the Board consider holding focus groups with residents of low-income housing in the city to determine knowledge of human services.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at about 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services