

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, January 20, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Pamela Gilchrist, Bill Lenehan, Marc Meulman, Genna Nichols, Sandra Sheppard, Kyle Huitt (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Angela Manahan Ilori; Elma (Pat) Maye

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 6, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted, 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Memorandum regarding FY 2010-11 Human/Public Service Funding Review and Options: Staff summarized the communication to City Manager Evans that includes the City Administration overview of: funding available compared to applications received, scores and ranking of applications, and several potential funding options. Staff noted all applicants are current grantees, and because Gryphon Place did not submit a FY2011-12 application, \$2,230 of General Fund monies are available to distribute to applicants above current grantee funding levels.
2. FY 2011-12 Human/Public Service Funding Board application scores and rankings: Meulman reviewed the Board application scores included in the final agenda (scores were not reported by Lenehan, Maye, Tuley and Huitt -- Maye abstained due to a conflict of interest, and Tuley resigned from the Board effective January 20th). In addition to individual Board application scores, average Board scores were calculated and included in the final agenda as follows: Portage Community Center (PCC) CDBG Fund-233; PCC General Fund-223; Housing Resources-208; Catholic Family Services-196; YWCA-183. Meulman noted the PCC CDBG Fund application was straight forward as PCC is the only applicant for funding. In addition, based on the scores and discussion, there was Board consensus that PCC ranked first and Housing Resources ranked second. Sheppard noted a concern regarding the criterion involving use of volunteers, as fewer volunteers can be used for assisting a rape victim compared to distributing surplus baked goods. Meulman noted the criterion allows for a higher score where use of volunteers may be determined inappropriate. Lenehan noted that the YWCA sexual assault program is a truly unique and important to the community. Huitt noted that services provided to teens by the ARK may help prevent further problems later in life by providing early intervention. Sheppard noted a challenge in finding one service more important than another, and noted that the difference in scores, ranking and the amount of additional funding to allocate to one applicant over another is not significant enough to make or break a program. Meulman noted the differences in average Board scores compared to the City Administration ranking. In response to Lenehan, staff indicated the YWCA was ranked higher than the Catholic Family Services due to a higher use of volunteers and the provision of transitional housing units and/or tenant-based rental assistance within the City of Portage. Meulman suggested that based on Board discussion regarding the merits of both the YWCA and Catholic Family Services, that the Board consider ranking both agencies equally. Staff noted that in prior years, some applicants have been scored and/or ranked as equal. In response, Gilchrist noted that she does not prefer allocating the additional funding to all applicants equally and thinks higher ranked applicants should get more funding. Meulman noted that if the YWCA and Catholic Family Services were ranked the same, that perhaps the Board should recommended the same percentage funding increase for both applicants. After further discussion, there was Board consensus on the ranking for General Fund applications as follows: PCC-1st; Housing Resources-2nd; YWCA-3rd and Catholic Family Services-3rd. The Board also decided further discussion regarding funding for applicants should be held off until the February 3, 2011 meeting.
3. Resignation of Amy Tuley – The Board regretfully accepted the letter of resignation of Amy Tuley

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: Huitt noted that the Youth Advisory Committee will hold a Snow Party at Oakland Drive Park on February 5th, and invited Board members to attend. The Board suggested Huitt contact Catholic Family Services, PCC and other grantees regarding potential attendance and interaction with Portage youth. Gilchrist suggested the Board consider volunteering at the annual Kalamazoo County Food Distribution in December 2011.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services