

Community Action Board

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2008

Members Present

Yvette Coursey
Vincent Goodman
Theresa Johnson
Kathi Beeson
Jerry Kelly
Ann Simpson
Easie LaRose
Tombalena Guyton
Pam Williams
Evelyn Palencia
Angelia Fowler
Lillie Pettigrew
Phylis Clark
Asleen Stepherson
Yvette Jakes

Members Absent

Lynda Charles
Loretha Daniels
Von Sheila Hatcher

Execused Absenses

Robert Walker
Tequisha Myles
Anax Pompilus
Autrie Moore Williams

Staff Present

Maureen Perrault
June Lucas
Mary Allen
Gayle Love
James Scott

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Yvette Coursey, followed by a period of introductions. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Approval moved for the July 16th minutes by Vincent Goodman, second by Jerry Kelly, motion unanimously approved. Motion by Mr. Vincent Goodman to approve the September 2nd minutes and seconded by Jerry Kelly and unanimously approved.

Staff Report

Maureen referred to the handout on the Financial Status Report for the LIHEAP grant.

On September 30th the President signed off on a bill authorizing huge increases to many federal programs. That included the LIHEAP program, the allocation for the state of Florida went from 26 to 90 million dollars. At the local level, we have been advised that our new contract will be approximately 3 times the amount of our existing contract. It is a 100 percent federal grant. Our current contract is 1.2 million dollars. The state has advised that they want the grantees to spend our existing contract with DCA for utility assistance, which ends on March 31, 2009. Kathryn, LIHEAP Coordinator and I have had telephone conferences with the state; what they want grantees to do is spend the money in their existing contract as quickly as possible, so that we can enter into our new contract, and the new contract will go through 2010.

Theresa Johnson asked Maureen for the amount of money that will be coming down with the new contract.

Maureen responded, they are giving us an approximate amount to consider that it will be three times the existing funding level. Our current contract is 1.2 million so I will have to say somewhere in the ballpark of around 3.6 million. I will tell you that part of the motivation from DCA in terms of getting agencies to do this is, we are not the only grantee that is dealing with this, the entire state is dealing with this and they're saying, if all of a sudden we give you three times the funding level you are going to need extra time to figure out the logistics, to spend the money and to do that kind of thing. So the push is, not just to enter into the new contract, but the new contract is longer than a year and they're taking all of that into consideration.

Easie LaRose asked how long would the contract be for?

Maureen indicated that the contract will start when we finish our existing contract, we are looking at the new contract being for 15 months.

Maureen also stated that the reason that there is discussion and mindset at the state level is the State of Florida wants to demonstrate, they just got a real break in the formula on utility assistance. They're not looking just at Palm Beach County Community Action, They're looking at all 60 grantees, and if we as a grantee and we as a state don't spend the money, its not going to be in the formula the next time.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board, Pam Williams gave a brief report of the last meeting held on September 29th. In attendance was: Theresa, Tequisha, Easie and herself. The committee was established at the request of the Executive Board to review policies and procedures, best practice as it relates to the Community Action and Human Services. Recommendations for consideration was: Management establish a monitoring system that will catch these items that were pointed out by the auditors. That this Board will take a more active role in assisting management in the oversight of Community Action services therefore, they would like to suggest a Board retreat. At the retreat, we would then learn how to improve our overall performance as a board. We would develop

our goals and objectives for the year, we will set up a strategy plan to evaluate all services and this will enable the Board to stay on top of all concerns. We were unable to discuss any concerns regarding Human Services, we have requested the following items to assist us in the newly proposed merger: A proposed organizational chart of the proposed merger between Human Services and Community Action. Past audit reports for Human Services for the past 4 years. A designated time when we all can meet and discuss our differences. As of this date, no feedback has been received on a designated date or time or the information requested.

There were some follow-up comments from other Ad Hoc Committee members in regards to helpful evaluation tools and eliminating the issues that continued to be harped upon in terms of concerns from Jon.

Motion on the floor to accept the report given by Pam Williams, seconded and unanimously approved.

The one action item that stands out is the retreat. The Board agreed it was an excellent idea. Maureen was requested to come up with a location site and bring back to the board. The Board's preference was to have the retreat on a Saturday.

Comments and Concerns from the Board

Evelyn Palencia commented that on Saturday, Florida Rural Legal Services participated with a Foreclosure Clinic at Addison Middle School hosted by Palm Beach County Legal Aide.

Theresa wanted to thank the Board for having the confidence in her to be the one that spoke at the BCC meeting. It was really overwhelming to see the people that were dressed in black at that meeting and what we all stood for in unity, it displayed such strength. Also wanted to thank Maureen for all of her compassion and what she does on a day to day basis.

The Board upon consensus, agreed to do a holiday party at the next board meeting to be held on December 16, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Johnson, Board Secretary/Treasurer