

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting - Thursday, January 6, 2005

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL – 6:33 p.m. Vice President Chen called the meeting to order. Also present were members Wasko, Flores-Witt, Bonta, Currie, and Hollinger Jackson, President Franz was absent. Staff present was Beaver and Brown.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Taken out of order to permit Annalisa Moore, AUD, Woodchip Program coordinator an opportunity to address the Board regarding housing and community development needs. She thanked the Board and staff for the support. The Woodchip / RISE program was able to continue and increased in attendance from 120 to 396 students as a result of CDBG funding that sustained the Program during a “dry spell”. This program provides a safe place for students and parents, and promotes a sense of feeling good and doing better. Daisy, a student in RISE for the past 2 years stated she was disrespectful at first then realized it was a better place and feels great about where she is and how this program has helped her with bringing her grades up. Shaaquile, a student in RISE since 4th grade, (she is now in 7th grade) stated the program has not only helped her, but also her parents. They are able to help with homework and her Dad is now the President of Chipman PTA.

Ms. Moore reported that the Woodchip Afterschool Program recently received a federal “21st Century” grant in the amount of \$400,000 annually through 2009-2010. Thanks to this funding they will not have closed in March. There are waitlists at all three schools sites. With the extra funding they could expand if they had another instructor, which could in turn serve more students. Grades served are 1st through 8th; the program operates Monday through Fridays 3-6 p.m. They collaborate with several other programs and handle many referrals that filter through.

2. CONTIUNUED DISCUSSION REGARDING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS – Staff reviewed that most of the December meeting was hearing from community based organizations regarding needs. Staff provided recent information regarding public service funding, which has dropped approximately \$54,000 from the current year. It was further explained what the CDBG funds can and cannot be spent on, and where the remaining funds get spent. It was also reported that the Request For Proposal process is going to be for a 1-year period, rather than the 2-year period just ending. There was discussion on how the CDBG formula works in determining the amount we receive and how if the overall federal funds stay the same we receive less because new Entitlement cities come into the program.

The Board determined that focus areas would be addressed but not prioritized. Due to the funding reduction the Board had determined that there is a greater need to increase the capacity of service providers to deliver services efficiently and without duplicating these efforts. Emphasis for funding should go toward strengthening Alameda’s safety net, better access to affordable housing in Alameda, empowering Alamedans to become self-sufficient and stable, and to support capacity building for service providers.

Motion to request staff to draft a letter to reflect the consensus of this meeting. Two Members will review and approve and/or edit the letter (Wasko, Currie). Member Currie was designated to represent

the Board at the January 18th City Council meeting with member Bonta as a back-up. M/S Wasko, Currie and unanimous.

Member Hollinger Jackson was excused from the meeting at 8:00 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

3. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION – Taken out of Order (2)

5. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Chen at 8:45 p.m. M/S Bonta, Currie and unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver
Secretary of the SSHRB

CB:sb