

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, December 2, 2010

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL** President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were: Villareal, Biggs, Holder and Dailey.
Absent were: Nielsen and. James
Staff: Franz

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 28, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected (Biggs/Holder)

3.

3-A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HEARING ON REPROGRAMMING OF FY2010-11 PROGRAM INCOME FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC SERVICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CYCLE FOR FY2011-12 – --- DEBBIE POTTER – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMS MANAGER, ALAMEDA HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Debbie Potter announced that since the last CDBG round, Terri Wright has transferred to the Finance Department, and her position is in the process of being filled.

She stated that normally CDBG funds are provided in a two-year funding cycle, but because last year was the first year of the City's Five Year Plan, it had been announced as a one year funding cycle. She requested that the Board approve changing this to a two-year cycle, with agencies having last year's grant amount renewed, as long as they were meeting their performance goals. In addition to approving this modification, she asked that the Board hold a Public Needs hearing at their January 2011 meeting.

Regarding reprogramming, she announced that an additional \$19,000 of public service authority has become available for the current fiscal year. The funding is the result of program income from the previous fiscal year.

She recommended approval of \$9,000 to the Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) to supplement their advocacy program services to women who have filed a police report. FVLC receives a copy of all domestic violence-related police reports and then follows up with clients to offer on-going services. FVLC has funded these activities from its unrestricted funds, but has seen a decline in their budget over the past few years. This funding would help offset that shortfall. In addition, some of the re-programmed funds would be used to develop and implement a plan to re-establish Alameda's Domestic Violence Task Force. Once the plan has been developed, FVLC would present the plan to the Board for their review and comment.

The remaining \$10,000 would be given to Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC), operators of Midway Shelter. These funds would help offset the funding lost due to budget cuts from the state and FESG. This is following significant budget cuts over the past few years.

Debbie Potter noted that funding these two programs will help support Alameda's

services to victims of Domestic Violence, by providing assistance at the time of the incident, emergency service-enriched housing, and assistance identifying transitional or permanent housing.

Speakers:

Cherrie Allison, Executive Director Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)

Ms. Allison thanked the Board for their continued support and consideration of these additional funds. FVLC has been using their own funds for the past three years to provide immediate response to DV victims “when the trauma is fresh”. Last year they reviewed eighty-eight APD police DV reports and followed up with the victims, providing them emergency services referrals to other DV programs, and assistance filling out and processing restraining orders and other necessary legal documents. Ms. Allison also noted that FVLC and BFWC have a long history of collaboration, including participation on the, now dormant, Domestic Violence Task Force.

The Alameda Court system is moving Family Law to Alameda in January, and FVLC will be available to assist Alameda’s DV victims through the court process as needed.

Liz Varela, Executive Director Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC)

Ms. Varela explained that services provide in Alameda by BFWC include the operation of the Midway Shelter and Bessie Coleman Court, and the provision of HPRP services, as funds are available, to all Alameda residents that qualify.

BFWC caseworkers providing HPRP services from the program’s mid-county hub in San Leandro provide rental assistance and Rapid re-housing services. To date, 85 households have been assisted with \$181,000 of these funds.

She also related that FVLC provides legal services to Midway clients as well as providing referrals to the shelter.

In response to board questions, Debbie Potter informed the Board that:

- 1st Quarter reports, indicated that all CDBG sub-grantee organizations were on target to meet their program goals. At our January meeting, she will update the Board on the 2nd Quarter report.
- As to the status of the Midway Shelter site, she explained that staff is still in conversation with the Navy regarding renewal of the lease. If the Marine Reserve Center were to close, the space might be made available under the McKinney Act.

Board discussion supported the need for emergency shelter and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence in our community, and felt that this reprogramming plan will help meet these needs. It was also agreed that the reinstitution of the Domestic Violence Task Force in Alameda would help build a collaborative effort to deal with this issue.

A Motion was made that the Board support the Staff recommendation regarding the awarding of \$19,000 reprogrammed public service funds to FVLC (\$9,000) and BFWC (\$10,000), and converting the one-year RFP cycle to a two-year cycle and continue the current public services allocation as long as sub-grantees meet their FY10-11 service delivery goals and the City receives its annual CDBG allocation for FY11-12

M/S Biggs/Wasko Unanimous

3-B. REPORT ON PLANS BY THE ACCYF TO HOLD AN ANTI-BULLYING

WORK-SHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUSD AND OTHER COMMUNITY ENTITIES IN 2011, AND A REQUEST BY PRESIDENT WASKO TO HAVE BOARD CONSIDER CO-SPONSORING AND PLAYING A ROLE IN ASSISTING WITH FACILITATION OF EVENT Action – 20 minutes

President Wasko shared that over the past two years the AUSD and community organizations have made efforts to educate youth and the community at large on the negative impact of bullying in our schools and community, and that the Board has supported these activities. And over the years, as part of their mission, the Board has participated in co-sponsoring activities associated with the Season For Non-violence, and other community efforts that encourage others to treat one another with dignity and respect.

At their November meeting, the Youth Collaborative voted to plan and sponsor an Anti-Bullying workshop in partnership with other organizations, hopefully SSHRB, AUSD, and APD. This is in addition to the ACCYF's support of the Daily Readings, and Speech Contests. The plan was to also consider other activities throughout the year that might help Alameda move from a Season for Nonviolence to a Culture of Nonviolence. One idea to make this happen was to have ATAH sponsor a "Not in Our Town" event, as they had 6 or 7 years ago.

President Wasko explained that a 2-3 day series of performance/workshop events was being considered using Kofman Auditorium and other AUSD venues. This would allow a large percentage of our elementary and middle school students to attend.

Discussion followed, and raised concern regarding issues that may be raised during the presentation, and not dealt with if the students go back to class afterwards, rather than having access to follow-up and counseling as needed. It was felt that these components needed to be built in to the planning of the event(s). It was also expressed that the event should represent the culture and needs of the community.

A motion was made to "support the Season For Non-Violence (SNV) activities, and in partnership with other community organizations, co-sponsor activities including an Anti-Bullying Workshop that represents the needs and diversity of Alameda, and also contains appropriate follow-up activities and support."

Motion/Amendment/Second Villareal /Biggs/ Dailey Unanimous

3-C. REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF NEXT STEPS ASSIGNMENTS, FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING 2011 NEEDS ASSESSMENT - Information – 30 minutes

Staff suggested, and Board members agreed, that, due to possible changes in Alameda's commission structure and staffing, and because we will need time to support SNV activities, the Board might consider holding off on their Needs assessment "homework".

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Staff suggested that Board Members email announcements to him regarding events they would like other Members to be aware of.

Biggs: There was a meeting at AMCCC where Councilmember Matarrese and Elsa Ortiz from AC Transit heard public comment on AC Transit's service cuts. While the cuts were rescinded, Member Biggs and others expressed that the 31 Line should not have been on the cut list in the first place. Community members are continuing discussion on ways to assure that the 31 stays on the list.

Holder: Added that the discussion (above) included encouragement to complete the Title 6 analysis.

Wasko: Encouraged members to access web trainings available as part of Alameda being named one of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

6. ADJOURNMENT

M/S to Adjourn (Dailey/Biggs) Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Franz
Community Development Coordinator