

MINUTES

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board
Tuesday April 12, 2011 6:30-8:30pm
110 N Fourth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
1st Floor Conference Room

Members Present: A. Erickson, S. Mithani, K. Martin, B. Eichmuller, A. Ramirez, D. Blanchard, N. Staebler, S. Rapundalo

Members Absent: S. Pontoni, I. Ault, S. Smith

Staff Present: M. Callan, A. Plevak

- I. Convene Meeting:
Ned Staebler convened the meeting at 6:33.
- II. Public Comment:
None.
- III. Approval of Agenda:
S. Mithani moved to approve agenda for April 12, 2011; seconded by B. Eichmuller. Motion approved (S. Mithani, K. Martin, B. Eichmuller, A. Ramirez, D. Blanchard, N. Staebler; 6 Aye, 0 Nay).
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
A. Ramirez moved to approve minutes from February 8, 2011; seconded by B. Eichmuller. Motion approved (A. Erickson, S. Mithani, K. Martin, B. Eichmuller, A. Ramirez, D. Blanchard, N. Staebler; 7 Aye, 0 Nay).
- V. Discussion Issues
 - A. City Budget (Update & Discussion)

M. Callan gave an overview of the City budget: The City Administrator provided his budget to City Council last night. Staff brought a copy of the AnnArbor.com article covering the budget. The budget is proposing the following cuts to human services: \$116,000 in first year and \$49,000 in second year.

Additionally, the County is facing a \$20 million budget shortfall in the next two-year budget cycle. Consequently, there are several departments looking at consolidating for increased efficiencies and decreased costs for services. Community Development is slated to merge with Employment Training & Community Services and Energy & Economic Development. The cost savings resulting from that merger may present an opportunity for OCD to make up a portion of the City's recommended cuts. By the time City Council approves its budget on May 16th, any offset from the County side will be known.

While the 13% cut to human services allocations appears larger than other City departments that were asked to cut only 2 ½%, the only other place in OCD’s budget where cuts could be made is in staffing. At present, OCD cannot further reduce staffing without affecting the ability to administer the human services funding, so the requested cuts were taken entirely from direct human services allocations.

Members discussed.

B. Coordinated Funding (Update)

M. Callan gave an update on the Coordinated Funding process. The Coordinated Funding Review Team—comprised of three members each from the City, County, Urban County, United Way and staff—has now reviewed and ranked all 76 applications. Soni, Anna and Sandi were the representatives from the City. Funding recommendations have been developed—63 programs will be funded and 13 will not be funded. Recommendations have not been made public yet, but will be shared with the HHSAB when they are public.

The recommendations will go to City Council on May 2nd; the final decision may be put off until the May 16th City Council meeting when the budget is finalized. The County Board of Commissioners will review the recommendations on May 4th and approve them on May 18th. The Urban County will review and approve them on May 24th. The United Way will review and approve them in late April.

Additionally, based on the continuing resolution that will be passed by Congress this week, our CDBG funding—some of which is used for human services—will be cut 16%. Our HOME funds will also be cut 10%. These will result in a net \$500,000 loss to the community for housing and human services projects.

Similarly, the County budget is uncertain and may result in some reduction to human services funding.

Members discussed sending a resolution to Council on May 2nd with the Coordinated Funding recommendations that would at a minimum state the following:

- recognition that times are tough
- inclusion of an expression of gratitude that we continue to fund human services consistent with our values here in Ann Arbor
- inclusion of some examples of what cuts to human services might mean
- include a request to not cut funding
- include a request to spread cuts over two years

D. Blanchard moved to approve the creation of a resolution from HHSAB to City Council in coordination with staff, the Chair and the Vice Chair that incorporates the points outlined by members in the meeting minutes to be submitted for the May 2nd City Council meeting. A. Ramirez seconded. Motion approved (A. Erickson, S. Mithani, K. Martin, B. Eichmuller, A. Ramirez, D. Blanchard, N. Staebler; 7 Aye, 0 Nay).

VI. Public Comment

D. Blanchard provided an update on the Arrowwood Cooperative. The Coop members voted last month on four options. They did not reach a plurality for any of the options, even

though the most popular selection was the option to stay limited equity. The next vote will only contain two options and will likely meet the threshold of votes. M. Callan offered staff to assist with development of the new Bylaws if the vote passes.

VII. Adjournment

N. Staebler adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.