

MINUTES

Housing and Human Services Advisory Board
Tuesday July 13, 2010 6:30-8:30pm
110 N Fourth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
1st Floor Conference Room

Members Present: A. Erickson, I. Ault, S. Mithani, R. Kerson (arrived at 6:47), R. Konkel (arrived at 6:49)

Members Absent: N. Staebler, S. Pontoni, K. Martin, D. Blanchard, B. Eichmuller, S. Smith, S. Rapundalo

Staff Present: J. Hall, A. Plevak

Guests: Ellen Schulmeister, Michael Appel

- I. Convene Meeting:
S. Mithani convened the meeting at 6:44pm; no quorum. All action items deferred until quorum arrives or next regularly scheduled meeting.
- II. Public Comment:
None.
- III. Approval of Agenda:
No quorum.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
No quorum.
- V. Discussion Issues
 - A. HUD Planning Grant & AAHTF

J. Hall reviewed a HUD Planning Grant that is being pursued jointly with the Washtenaw County Department of Energy and Economic Development as well as other local municipalities. The application is due August 23rd, 2010 and will provide funding to support planning and development activities in the Washtenaw Corridor—a local collaborative project that is working to improve the Washtenaw Avenue Corridor between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. This would include a focus on increased affordable housing. The application requires the identification of local match in order to be eligible for funding and the AAHTF would be an eligible source of match.

Members discussed issues including amount remaining in the AAHTF (\$56,000), eligible uses, likelihood of replenishment and funding housing projects if used. Members provided the following guidance in the application process: If AAHTF is needed to meet the required match, members generally support the use. However, the membership strongly suggests that any use of AAHTF funding be used to support tangible housing projects only.

B. Blueprint to End Homelessness (Update)

Ellen Schulmeister, Interim Director of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, provided a presentation “Blueprint to End Homelessness: Six Year Update.” The presentation reviewed the history of the Blueprint, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, outcomes to date, current challenges, and future hopes. Michael Appel, Director of Avalon Housing, contributed to the latter half of the presentation as well.

Members discussed progress on the 500-unit goal (156 units completed) and the relationship of the Y-Replacement units. While some affordable units may have disappeared, no supportive units have been lost. Vouchers may count toward the total, but they must be permanent and they must have services attached.

Members also discussed the expanding definitions of homelessness in the Hearth Act and the lack of additional funding likely to come with the increased eligibility.

C. Membership (Discussion)

A. Plevak reviewed the FY2011 HHSAB Member Re-Appointments with the Board. Tony Ramirez has stepped down from his position on the Board. All other members’ whose terms expired elected to request re-appointment. The Board is still in need of 4 additional members—current members are encouraged to direct anyone who is interested to the Mayor’s Office to apply.

I. Ault offered to reach out to the Neutral Zone to solicit a youth board member. R. Kerson informed the Board that the Mayor has requested his presence on the Transit Board, and he has accepted. This may mean that he will be unable to complete his term (ending 8/2011).

Members have also discussed whether or not membership should be reduced. Members also suggested that a less-frequent meeting schedule might address the issues of a lack of quorum. Members discussed a “Leave of Absence” policy if it would mean that excused absences would lower the number of members needed for quorum. Staff should discuss with attorney’s office whether or not this is possible. Members also discussed surveying whether the membership would prefer a different time.

D. Y-Replacement Units/100 Units

No update.

VI. Public Comment
None.

VII. Adjournment

S. Mithani ended the meeting at 8:04. No quorum was present during the meeting; no actions were taken by the Board.