

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO**

On the **11th day of May 2010**, the Community Development Advisory Committee met in a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. The hearing was held at the Downtown Library, 4th & Buchanan, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
ALLEN: James, Chairman	Yes	203	177
DAVIS: W. L. (Dub), Target Area	Yes	88	83
DUNN: Eddie, Target Area	Yes	12	9
GRISHAM: Glenda, NW Area	Yes	37	32
HALL: Lani, SW Area	Yes	72	58
JONES: Thomas, NE Area	Yes	29	21
MENDEZ: Rudy, SE Area	Yes	12	10
PARR: Chuck, SW Area	Yes	1	1
RIVERA: Ruben, SE Area	Yes	25	23
SALDIERNA: Rita, NE Area	Yes	22	17
WHITAKER: Clem, NW Area	NO	80	68

STAFF MEMBERS:

Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator
Patty Hamm, Housing Administrator
Susan Barros, Program Coordinator
Diana Lindvay, Reporting Secretary

Citizens in Attendance: 15

Media: 0

Chairman James Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and thanked attendees for coming and asked each committee and staff member to introduce themselves and the area they represent.

Chairman Allen explained to the attendees that the CDAC is an eleven member advisory committee appointed by the City Commission. The CDAC makes recommendations, emphasis on recommendations, to the City Commission on the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program. Tonight we are here to listen to proposals about projects from City Departments and non-profit agencies intended to improve neighborhoods and benefit lower income households. We feel like all your projects are worthy, put a lot of work into them, and applaud your dedication, because without you we would not be the great community that we are. Remember there is never enough money to do every project or solve every problem. The goal is to strive for projects that best achieve the five-year strategies. There is always more requests for funding than money available. Requests total \$4,874,477. We have \$1,929,209 more in requests than we have funding. This is where this Committee has the fund or anguish trying to make the best recommendations possible to help the most people. Keep this in mind when we do our discussions, nothing is personal, but we do have to make decisions. Based on funding estimates provided by HUD, the City will receive CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,944,624 and HOME funds in the amount of \$1,000,644 totaling \$2,945,268 beginning October 1, 2010.

Chairman Allen requested that each Agency and Department representative should briefly describe any new highlights added to the proposed project and allow time for CDAC members to ask questions. If there were

questions that came up when we went on the bus tours and you want to elaborate on, please do so. You might consider saving as much of your time as possible for questions by the Committee. Todd, when are the allocation meetings.

Mr. Steelman replied that we have a couple of meetings coming up. On June 1st we have our public hearing on 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan and on June 8th, public hearing for allocation.

Chairman Allen encouraged everyone to follow through with their participation and attend the CDAC hearing on June 8th, allocation work session 5:00pm and committee recommendations 7:00pm, and the City Commission tentatively scheduled for July 20th, 3:00pm, City Hall and if that changes, the agencies will be notified. We hope that all of you will continue through to the end of the process and journey in order to get there. Agency representatives and citizens will please give your name and address for recording proposes. Citizens in attendance will have the opportunity to discuss needs and problems and to comment on any of the proposed projects. Representatives will go first, then citizens in audience, and last the CDAC committee.

ITEM 1: Conduct a public hearing to allow citizens to comment on the 2010-2015 Public Housing Agency (PHA) 5-Year and Annual Plan and develop a recommendation regarding the approval of the Plan.

Mr. Todd Steelman said that he would briefly add that this is the 5-Year Plan for the housing section. It is available at our office and on our website www.amarillo.gov/departments/commdev.html. We are in the middle of a 45 day comment period time and you still have time to make comments if you have questions or concerns. You are welcome to contact Patty Hamm also.

Ms. Hamm commented that we do an annual plan once a year and then every 5 years we have the opportunity to look back over our last 5 year plan to see how well we did accomplishing our goals and then setting new goals for the next five years. There haven't been any significant amendments to our program. We do a streamline plan because we only have the Section 8 Voucher Program in Amarillo. We don't have public housing so we don't get into capital improvements or those type of issues. We are tenant based rental assistance program to contract with private landlords. Our plan is a pretty simple plan. As far as our policies, we have only had one significant amendment over the past five years and that was when we received some vouchers for Hurricane Katrina victims where we had to amend our policies to allow them to be admitted ahead of other families on our waiting list. We received 51 vouchers to assist families affected by Hurricane Katrina such as displaced from Katrina Cottages. We kind of hedged our bet thinking that they wouldn't come to Amarillo, and they didn't, so we were able to use those 51 vouchers for the people on our waiting list. We apply every time there is an opportunity to apply for vouchers. There is funding availability out now for non-elderly disabled families that we will be applying for. Funding is very rare now that HUD puts out new opportunities for funding for the voucher program. Other ways that we expand our housing opportunities is through our Section 8 Homeownership Program which is a voluntary program that we operate through our department where families on our program participate on our sub-sufficiency program where we provide case management for up to 5 years as long as they abide by the agreements of the contract. We have a case manager in our office that works with them by helping them clean their credit up. Most of our successful clients have been those who have enrolled in college and gotten some time of diploma or degree, been employed. We have assisted 13 families go into homeownership where we helped them make their house payments instead of rent payments. It is picking up the pace, last month we had three families close on their houses. It has taken a long time for them to clean up their credit, but now we are kind of see it steam roll a little bit and think that it will pick up over the next five years where we have more of those type families going into homeownership from our rental program. Our family self-sufficiency program is a component of our Section 8 program where we do case management to help families get off welfare eventually with families that work really hard at improving their situation. We do not see any significant changes in our program over the next five years other than trying to apply for anything that is available to help people on our waiting list. We have a lot of people on our waiting list with the waiting period being 18 to 24 months at this time. There is still a lot of need out there. Our rental rehab program and projects such as Mariposa and Cypress Creek increase affordable housing for our families to rent which is a real plus for our families looking for decent affordable housing.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any public comments.

No public comments.

Chairman Allen said, he had one comment for the committee. I want to thank Patty and all the people who work with her. She has been the expert on this subject for a long time and does a great job. If it wasn't for her help all these years it would not have run as smoothly. The committee appreciates all your efforts.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Dub Taylor told everyone, in our audience we had a long time ex-committee member. I don't know if he is here to spy on us or wanting a handout.

Chairman Allen asked Tomas Bonilla to stand and said that Mr. Bonilla had served almost 20 years with him on the committee. We saw a lot of things happen and we miss him. It was good to see him again. A lot of the agencies present had to deal with him also.

No further comments from the committee.

ITEM 2: Consider project funding requests for the 2010-2011 annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development using the following resources:

2010-2011 Community Development Block Grant	\$1,944,624
2010-2011 HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$1,000,644

Allocation Total	\$2,945,268

Chairman Allen told everyone, Community Development has been in Amarillo for over 30 years. I truly believe that Amarillo would not be the place that it is today if it was not for Community Development and agencies dedication and hard work over the years. A lot of you planted seeds and see them growing over the years with the projects, kids and families. I have brought some seeds for my committee members to remind them that we do plant seeds. We have thousands of dollars of seeds to plant this year.

Chairman Allen also told everyone, this was something that he wished we would do more often because I think that we need to keep this in mind when we are making decisions when we are dealing with each other on a daily basis. I would like to introduce to you Elder Herman Moore, Pastor of Carter Christian Baptist Church and he is going to lead us in a moment of prayer.

Chair Allen reminded presenters that the committee has their applications in hand and the presentation should be a highlight of the application. If there have been changes since application turned in and the bus tour, explain to the committee briefly. Each presenter will have 5 minutes. I will politely remind presenters when their time is up. Remember that we have several presentations tonight. Presenters should come to the front table and give your name and address for our records. After each presentation I will make a request for public comments. This will be when anyone else in the audience will be able to make a comment on that particular application. After the public comments are closed, the committee may ask questions and once the committee questions are closed, all questions and comments will be closed for everyone. Keep in mind that no decisions will be made tonight, we are here just for information. We will follow the agenda as printed.

Parks & Recreation – Hamlet School Park **\$ 120,000**
Larry Offerdahl, Director of Parks & Recreation
Clint Stoddard, Park Superintendent

Larry Offerdahl yielded to Clint Stoddard.

Clint Stoddard, 7007 Sheldon Rd., today we are requesting from your committee the funding for a new playground at Hamlet School Park. This funding is for \$120,000 and it will replace the existing playground that is on the park side of the property. The playground that is currently there was put in back in the late '80s to early '90s. The playground currently consists of a large swing, small swing, slide, merry-go-round and an old stage coach

climber. We are proposing to replace existing play equipment at Hamlet School Park with new modular play structures, swings and a trac ride unit. The funding will provide the installation of the equipment to include a concrete border around the play components and a cushioned transfer area to the play structure along with the cushioning material that will provide ADA accessibility to all play components and an ADA accessible walkway. The existing play equipment does not meet the current Americans with Disabilities Act, Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Society for Testing and Materials requirements for play equipment. The new equipment would meet all existing standards and requirements and provide expanded play value and safety to those children age 5 to 12 years. We have done these type of playgrounds throughout town and have just completed two on the northeast side of town at Eastridge and Forest Hills. The Hamlet School park is located Oak and Sycamore which north of 24th Street on the Northeast side of town.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

Keith Grays, 2326 N.W. 11th, I ditto Parks & Receptions request. Being acquainted with the old dilapidated playground equipment at Bones Hook Park, I now experience on a daily basis, when weather permits, the census has greatly multiplied with kids of all different cultures and walks of light that need the playground. Instead of the old monkey bars and merry-go-rounds, there are life skills equipment now. There is a climbing bar that you can use as if you are excavating old ruins, a soft place to fall, handicapped accessibility for children in wheelchairs or parents who want to watch their children play. I ask that you take under consideration Hamlet's School Park equipment update. I want to applaud Larry, Clint and all the staff at Parks and Recreation for a tremendous job that they are doing throughout the city in every community. The reason I say this is that from an economic point of view it is where quality of life is the outing in the park for a social economic level. So please take this into consideration. It is for the future of Amarillo which is our kids.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Ms. Hall said that she needed a point of clarification because on the request there were two parks.

Mr. Steelman replied that the other park was not in the target area, so it could not be funded.

Ms. Hall replied OK and the total request is now only \$120,000.

Mr. Steelman answered, that is correct.

Mr. Taylor asked if Parks knew how much that equipment at Hamlet park cost, and if you do, do you know who paid for it.

Mr. Stoddard replied that he could give a estimate of approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 on existing equipment. Who paid for it originally I do not know, but we replaced older equipment out of our maintenance budget. Currently one park is maintained by the City and one by the school. The school currently only has a small Head Start playground located on the school east side of the park. It consists of an actual boat, a little hut and a little track area that they can ride their bicycles down. This is the original design for Head Start that went on many years ago. The playground that is currently there is the only means of play for these children.

Mr. Taylor said that we could assume that the Schools originally had to pay for the equipment.

Mr. Stoddard replied that he did not know.

Mr. Taylor asked if it was possible that the school taxes paid for the playground?

Mr. Stoddard stated that he would have to go back to the old school contracts and send you a copy, but originally it states in the school park contracts that the City will maintain the playground area in a park. So this means the City had to purchase the playground equipment and maintain it at that point.

Ms. Hall stated that it was her understanding that the School District does not pay for the parks.

Mr. Stoddard replied that it does not.

Thomas Jones asked if this included the brown house behind the school.

Mr. Stoddard replied that it was just for the playground.

Ms. Saldierna stated that when the comment was made about the boat, she remembered playing in the boat for many years. I grew just one block away from the park. The park is well past its time and needs to be renewed.

Chairman Allen asked what is a trac ride unit?

Mr. Stoddard explained that it is a ride that a child comes up to a platform, grabs the handle, wraps feet around and slides for about 12 feet and stops at the other end.

Chairman Allen said that it is a new type of monkey bar.

Mr. Stoddard replied that it gives them the sensation of motion.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any other comments from the committee.

Ms. Glenda Grisham asked what they did with the old equipment?

Mr. Stoddard replied that they could not resale the sold equipment. It is cut it up and salvaged for the metal.

Eddie Dunn asked who was responsible for drug-free and gun-free signs. Seems like there has been a lot of violence by older people.

Mr. Stoddard replied that if Parks was mandated to put the signs up, they would do it.

Mr. Offerdahl invited everyone Saturday to the grand opening of Bones Hooks Splash Pad. We are very proud what this project means to the park and the neighborhood. This is a project funded by the City and Community Development.

Chairman Allen introduced Chuck Parr as a new committee member. Chuck is going to be an asset to the committee.

Building Safety – Demolition and Clearance Funds
Scott McDonald, Building Official

\$ 90,000

Scott McDonald stated that there are 350 properties that are being looked at and it is a huge proposition. The requested funds will be used to demolish unsafe, unoccupied buildings within the CDBG target areas. A small portion of the funds may also be used to remove large accumulations of junk and debris from properties within the CDBG target areas. The buildings are ones that have become unsecured and unsafe, and where the owners have failed to make the necessary repairs and secured the properties, or demolish the buildings as required by the Building Official under the authority granted in the Amarillo Municipal Code. Upon the Building Official's recommendation, the City Commission can declare a building unsafe and order its removal. If the owner does not either make repairs or demolish the building, the City is obligated to do so. If demolition by the City is the last alternative, a bid is prepared for its demolition and a contract is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Upon completion of the demolition, the owner is billed for all costs associated with the demolition and if that bill remains unpaid, an interest-bearing lien is filed in the deed records for the property. When a building is located within CDBG target area, CDBG funds are used. If it is located outside of the target areas, or if the CDBG funds are exhausted, general funds are used. When properties that have liens on them are sold, the liens are due before a clear title can be obtained. Those funds are then reimbursed to the CDBG funds.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Rueben Rivera thanked Building Safety for taking care of the King Apartments.

**Building Safety – Housing Inspector
Scott McDonald, Building Official**

\$ 56,467

Mr. McDonald stated that the requested funding for the CDBG Community Improvement Inspector for the Building Safety Department. The inspector works only in the CD Target Area neighborhoods to augment the Department's inspection resources in those areas. The inspector is responsible for identifying nuisance conditions and Municipal Code violations and to take the appropriate actions to have those resolved. Typical conditions and problems that are encountered include; condemnable buildings junk vehicles, accumulations of junk and debris, tall weeds, zoning violations, manufactured home inspections, and other miscellaneous violations. This request includes both salary and associated benefits for the employee, and vehicle costs.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Mr. Taylor stated that this was a very needy department. When you drive around Amarillo and can see all the things that are being done. You should be very proud of what you are doing.

Mr. McDonald replied that they were.

Mr. Jones said that there was property behind Hilltop School on a dirt road and during the spring and summer months the weeds grow really high and become a hazard for the students.

Mr. McDonald asked if it was a vacant structure.

Mr. Jones replied that it has been vacant for years.

Mr. McDonald asked if he knew the address.

Mr. Steelman said that he had talked to the Building Safety staff it that property is on the demolition list. It is part of the 350 structures that you talked about. We can check on the address and try to get it expedited. It has been identified by the staff and on their radar.

Chairman Allen stated that we have funded this for a number of years. This is a critical position. I think that we could probably emphasize it more so that Building Safety staff members look at this as affecting the face of Amarillo. They are helping the picture of Amarillo that people see when they move here and when companies are looking at relocating and driving around seeing junked vehicles, weeds, and substandard housing. They can greatly affect the image and possibly the economic viability of communities by insisting, especially in the target area, that home owners and land owners maintain their properties at an acceptable manner. It is not an economic or color situation, it is what is acceptable. Amarillo deserves and needs this emphasis.

Mr. McDonald replied that he lectures this constantly. I don't think that there is a City department that can have a greater impact for the City of Amarillo and the economic development of Amarillo than this portion of the department. There is no other department that can do this. I would love for you to come and tell my staff that. I have Major McCartt coming on Friday to speak to my staff and you could come a speak also. I will let you know specifically.

Ms. Hall stated that we had been funding this position for some time. Is there any way that this position could be moved over to the City of Amarillo. It is an important position and the City needs to look good. Can it be moved over to the City and the CDBG money be used for other things.

Mr. Steelman answered that the one thing we have when funded through CDBG is that we have some control that it stays within the target area. We can't pay for activities that go outside of target area. That has been the trade off that it has to concentrate in the target area.

Ms. Hall replied OK.

Mr. McDonald added that is the reason that they are asking for additional staff for the economic value and what the program does by focusing on the target areas. We are looking for more staff.

Eddie Dunn said that the application states it eliminates slum and blighting. Approximately 3 or 4 years ago, a neighbor remodeled their house and stacked the concrete in little piles on the lot behind my house. This pile is overgrown with grass and weeds. I called someone last year about this and nothing has been done at this time. They will mow everything, but the pile remains.

Mr. McDonald replied that there were a couple issues at play. First, Solid Waste will not pick up concrete out of the allies and second, the property owner is responsible for the junk and debris on their lot. Is it a vacant lot.

Mr. Dunn replied yes and knows who owns it.

Mr. McDonald told Mr. Dunn that if he got the address to him, he would address it.

Chairman Allen reminded everyone that the questions needed to be on the application and not other things.

Mr. Saldierna asked if his department would cover a business on Grand and Amarillo Blvd. that just has stacks and stacks of debris.

Mr. McDonald replied that they are addressing the issue. If you have noticed they are changing some of their fencing. They have a piece of recycling equipment that they shut down as a result of some actions that were taken. We are doing some and limited ability to regulate.

Ms. Saldierna asked again if it does cover businesses.

Mr. McDonald replied yes.

Mr. Rivera stated that he had brought it up to the City Commission two or three times. With those high winds that we had yesterday, if those cars had been stacked up to thirty or forty feet, would have been on the street.

Ms. Grisham asked how long it took from the time a compliant was issued.

Mr. McDonald answered that everything has a different timeline. Depends on if we have a vacant lot, absentee landlord and if an owner if occupying and it is a demolition. A demolition could take a year or longer and the simple matter of a clean-up can be less than 30 days.

Chairman Allen asked if Mr. McDonald could get an example of the timeline for different situations.

Mr. McDonald said that he would be happy too.

Mr. Rivera asked if there had been or will there be an "operation clean sweep" this year..

Mr. McDonald replied that there has not been and will not be this year. We are looking at targeting some sub-standard structures and perhaps going after some salvage yards. With the way the economy is now, we just can't fund it.

Chairman Allen asked there were any further comments from the committee.

No further comments.

Amarillo Habitat for Humanity – Glenwood Addition
Stephen Smart, Executive Director

\$ 109,000

Stephen Smart stated that there had been no changes. We are requesting \$109,000, which includes \$25,000 for operation funds and \$84,000 to build 6 new homes at \$14,000 each for purchase by qualified families at cost and no interest mortgages. A question that has come up over the past few years if fences. We have implemented a policy that every new home built after July 1, 2009, has a fenced backyard.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Chairman Allen asked if they had 6 candidates for these homes.

Mr. Smart replied that they had 2 families that have been approved and be included, 2 more that are up for approval at this time and in August will be another application period.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further comments from the committee.

Catholic Family Services – Multi-Family CHDO
Susan Bowers, Housing Supervisor

\$ 145,000

Susan Bowers stated that they were requesting acquisition and rehabilitation of a 10-30 unit multi-family dwelling in the City of Amarillo to increase the number of safe, decent, affordable housing to low income families and individuals. At this time we do not have a specific project. I would like to pass out a brochure that shows a project that CDBG funded. There are before and after pictures. The services that we provide are asbestos removal, lead paint remediation, new parking and sidewalks, handicap accessible units, and housing quality standards. With a large number of our residents at the low income level, 30% fall under extremely low income limit, 38% fall under the very low income limit and 38% use another service provided by CFS such as food assistance and eye care. I am a licensed social worker and know the referrals to give. When we come into a new project, all of the residents are given an application to apply for Section 8 housing assistance. One of the things that we are doing now is "all bills paid". The committee always asked why we didn't pay the utilities and now that has been implemented. We have a church group coming this Sunday to put up a gazebo and grill in the courtyard. This is what we have done with the funding and we would like to do it again.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Chairman Allen said that one of his concerns is that we have such a need for affordable housing in Amarillo. How many projects have we done for them.

Susan Barros replied 3.

Chairman Allen asked if they had ever considered private financing leveraged with our funding. Instead of waiting 3 years to get enough funds, you might be able to have a 2 year waiting period. Has there ever been a problem with your board concerning this?

Ms. Bowers answered that last year was the first year that they had asked for more money so that they could shorten the waiting period.

Ms. Hall stated that several years ago the agency had some issues and appreciate them being conservative with the economy the way it is.

Chairman Allen said that they do a great job, but I am so distressed when I drive by and see substandard housing and thinking that is one that CFS could get.

Ms. Bowers added that they work with Bill Houdai who is on their advisory committee and he is in real estate. There are not many 10-30 unit properties that come up for sale. We are always looking, but we can't always do the 100 unit.

Chuck Parr asked how they came up with the dollar amount if you do not have a project.

Ms. Bowers replied that they used Bill Houdai's knowledge of what is out there and how much it is selling for. I have the totals of our last 2 projects which was \$27,000 per unit and the last for \$40,000 per unit. It is very much an estimate.

Mr. Parr asked if they have any prospects.

Ms. Bowers replied that they looked at income limits. If there are residents that over the income limit, we do not want to uproot them.

Mr. Jones said that he was trying to get the process: approve funds and search for property.

Ms. Bowers replied that they are always searching for property.

Mr. Jones asked if they ever find any property that is a good investment. How do you look for property.

Ms. Bowers replied that they look at CDBG target area, income limits, HQS housing quality standard, make 10% of units handicap accessible.

Mr. Jones said that you could find 2 or 3 investors to try and make your improvements.

Mr. Steelman stated that one thing that needed to be remembered is that in the past when funding the CHDOs you have to set aside 15% of our allocations which is around \$150,000 to \$200,000 yearly. Now in the past that is about all we have funded by splitting that up between the two CHDOs we have. It has taken 2 to 3 years to get an amount to even partner with the private sector. I think that the past allocations have run \$80,000 to \$90,000 which is not enough to do any one project. That is why saving up for 2 or 3 years has come about. Last year was the year that we really gave a significant amount over our minimum. We put an emphasis on housing and went over which will allow them to speed up putting them projects on the ground. It comes back down to how much you want to invest in housing and how quickly you want to see these projects come forward.

Mr. Parr asked how many places do you go and put the money out there and say they will come. Normally people have a purpose and a reason. What if you put the money out there and you allocate and 2 or 3 years down the road it hasn't been used. That is what concerns me. You don't see any prospects out there now and you put out the money, then what are you going to do.

Ms. Bowers stated that they did have prospects.

Mr. Parr replied that you had said no, not at this time.

Ms. Bowers stated that she must have misunderstood him question.

Mr. Parr asked if there were any projects within a year.

Ms. Bowers stated that possibly.

Mr. Parr stated that it was hard for him to give money thinking that it might happen in a year or two.

Mr. Steelman said that he would clarify two other things. According to the contract they only have up to 2 years to put the money into a project.

Mr. Parr asked what happens to it then.

Mr. Steelman replied that we hold onto the money until they have a project, but if they don't in 2 years, it comes back to us. There are some Federal regulations that say as soon as they identify a property, we have to go in and make notification to the group who is living there. Until they are ready to move on a property, they do not identify it.

Mr. Parr replied that he understood.

Ms. Saldierna stated that they are faced with a lot of regulations and rules that you have to take into consideration when you purchase a project. Based on what we saw, this is beautiful. I want to commend your group for doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Grisham asked how do they market to the minority low-income.

Ms. Bowers replied that they get referrals from PCS and the City of Amarillo. We will also have an open house for the new property and post fliers in the neighborhood.

Chairman Allen asked the committee if there were any further comments.

No further comments from the committee.

**Catholic Family Services – SOS Youth Activity Center
Angel Acevedo, SOS Youth Activity Center Supervisor**

\$ 82,000

Angel Acevedo said that he thought it was his 13th visit is requesting funding for supervised activities for at-risk youth, focusing on low or extremely low income households in Northeast Amarillo. Includes an after-school program for elementary children, and an evening program for middle and high school youth. We don't really have any changes except that we have been discussing charging a small fee for our summer program to help cover some of the costs. I called around town to check and see what the costs are for children to go to the summer programs and it was astonishing how high the fees are. We checked with our families and from there decided that most of them would qualify for a scholarship. Our physical year runs from June thru July and I have been working with the Executive Director to see what kind of impact that our program is having on the kids. We will be able to provide this next year. I wrote thirty-five grants last year and there is no funding out there from the foundations that usually help.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

No public comments.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Mr. Taylor said that he had heard a story about a young man that had been associated with them that had joined the highway patrol. Have you heard any reports on how he is doing.

Mr. Acevedo answered that they are in constant contact with Jimmy who is a state trooper. He is waiting to go to chopper school.

Mr. Taylor asked if they had had any more reports on Greg Anderson.

Mr. Acevedo replied that he was doing very well and that James Allen had given him his diploma last year. Greg is a reservist in the army, one of our boxing coaches and is waiting to be shipped out to Kuwait this summer.

Ms. Grisham asked what would be the fee that they would charge.

Mr. Acevedo stated that the schedule would start June 1st and until school starts. The whole summer would be \$60, \$30 a month, \$10 a week or \$2 a day.

Chairman Allen asked if he would put that in writing and give it to Todd so that the committee would have it for their records.

Mr. Dunn said that he wanted to applaud Angel for the singing, performing arts and WAG Program for the graffiti. Just wondering how successful you are with the WAG Program.

Mr. Acevedo said that the War Against Graffiti Program has been in place for many years. From last October to early March we do not do much because of the weather. We were able to obtain an old beat-up pickup to haul all

the equipment. There is a small army that goes around and it is like weeds, if you don't keep up with it, it just keeps growing.

Rudy Mendez asked how people do you have helping.

Mr. Acevedo replied that they could have 20 to 25 kids for the painting and it usually just takes 2 for touchup.

Mr. Rivera asked if the business owners ever help with anything.

Mr. Acevedo replied that they will give supplies and paint and we will store it

Ms. Hall said that she had noticed on the grant proposal that you get money from the City for lunches in the summer.

Mr. Acevedo answered that they did not give food, but were on a lunch program.

Mr. Steelman added that they were one of the Summer Lunch Sites.

Ms. Hall asked how this helps them.

Mr. Steelman replied that this does not impact them directly because the City runs the program.

Ms. Hall asked if it was in their financial statements.

Mr. Steelman replied that it was not at all in the financial statements. We make the payments to the State and we are reimbursed. We have a contract with AISD.

Ms. Hall stated that this means they are just a beneficiary of your program.

Mr. Steelman replied yes.

Ms. Hall asked if there was someone here tonight that could answer financial questions for them.

Mr. Acevedo said that there was not.

Mr. Steelman added that if you would make a list of your questions, he would get them to Angel and would have the answers by the next meeting.

Mr. Davis asked what was the ages that they helped.

Mr. Acevedo replied that they usually went 6th thru 10th grade. When they go to high school, they get a job and car they then we hardly ever see them. Last year we had six kids who graduated high school.

Chairman Allen asked Angel to take back the questions the committee had to their financial people. He has a concern on page 10 about the heavy financial loses on your investments. I want to know if you changed your investments.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further comments from the committee.

No further comments.

**Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) – Food Net
Melissa Carter, Director Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle**

\$ 25,000

Stacey Urbanczyk, Operations Coordinator stated that the funding provides congregate and home delivered meals to lower-income and disabled adults in Amarillo and Canyon. CDBG funds will only be used to support ehe home delivered Amarillo clients. We get United Way funding for this program and one of the things you need to know is that the funding is divided by the cost of a meal. There is no administrative costs. I want you to think of

something when you are thinking on providing funding is that we always have a waiting list. We served 30 people last year. Most people think that this sounds like a lot of money for so few people, but you have to remember that we serve them multiple meals. They are given six meals a week, 5,000 meals a year for \$25,000. A meal is a basic need and some of these people are living in some of the houses that you are wishing that we could revamp. They are on a fixed income and by providing them six meals a week, it will help them stretch their dollar further.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the public.

No comments from the public.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Ms. Grisham asked how people find out about your program.

Ms. Urbanczyk answered that the Area Agency on Aging is a information referral agency. When people come in to get services for medi-care, medi-cade, caregiver assistance or nursing home our caseworkers find out all kind of information about them and will refer them to our program. We are a 211 United Way Agency, word of mouth, brochures, health fairs and speaking engagements.

Mr. Thomas asked how many people come into your program annually. The number of people on the waiting list.

Ms. Urbanczyk answered that they serve senior citizens, some of the frailest people in our community. Our people pass away, go into a nursing home, or start living with family. Our individual meals are to help individuals maintain their independence so they can stay in their homes and be a part of the community. That is the main purpose for home delivered meals.

Mr. Jones asked why they haven't asked for money to serve meals.

Ms. Urbanczyk said that for the last few years they have been cut back, so she asks the next year what they got the year before. The United Way funding has stayed the same for the last couple of years so we have tried to not be greedy.

Ms. Hall asked how big is your waiting list.

Ms. Urbanczyk said that a couple of years ago they had been up to 84 and when applied for United Way funding this year, it was down to 28 people. The waiting list number just goes up and down.

Ms. Hall asked that if your funding was doubled, you would be able to help everyone on your waiting list.

Ms. Urbanczyk answered yes.

Mr. Parr said everyone wants the biggest bang for their money, but that is a lot of money to keep thirty people in their home.

Ms. Saldierna said that it was thirty meals, six times a week, for fifty-two weeks. This total also included United Way funding.

Ms. Urbanczyk replied that it also included Federal funding. The Older American Act gives money to the States and the States decide how much they are going to give to each region. We have ten other sites in the twenty-six counties of the Panhandle and we get C1 money which is congregate money and C2 which is home delivered money and we give it all throughout the Panhandle. The \$68,000 we get is for the Amarillo and Canyon areas only.

Ms. Grisham asked if this included holiday meals.

Ms. Urbanczyk said that the Elizabeth Bivins Center does all the meals. They get three chilled meals on Tuesday and Thursday and half a gallon of milk and a loaf of bread every week. We go out and assess them to be sure that they can warm them up. If they do not have a microwave, we have people in the community who

give them microwaves. If they are not capable of warming them up, we put them in an area that serves hot meals like Hilltop.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further comments from the committee.

No further comments from the committee.

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) – Child Care Local Match **\$ 120,000**
Tony White, Workforce Development Assistant, Director/Contracts Manager

Marcus Smith, Workforce Development Department, said their request was a collaborative effort between the City of Amarillo and PRPC to use CDBG funds to secure matching federal Child Care and Development funds for the area. City CDBG funds combined with matching federal funds will be used to provide child care services for eligible low-income families living within the City of Amarillo. For every dollar that the CDBG gives, the Federal Government matches two dollars. Last year it was just over \$209,000. We will not know until October 2010, what the Federal match is going to be. It should be round the same as last year because of the stimulus.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. Grays asked if it was specifically from a workforce development or is it across the board child care.

Mr. Smith replied that the program was to try to put people back to work and one of the biggest expenses they have is child care. The goal is trying to get people back to work and they need child care.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any committee comments.

Ms. Hall asked if the parent could find child care wherever they want too and then you give them the voucher for it.

Mr. Smith replied they can choose a licensed facility and then we pay the child care. Frances Garcia is with me and she is the Program Manager for the child care system. The parents also share part of the child care expense according to their qualifications.

Ms. Grisham asked if Hispanic was included in the 66% white and how long is the waiting list.

Ms. Garcia answered that they have not had a waiting list for over three years.

Ms. Saldierna asked if they had excess funds since you do not have a waiting list.

Ms. Garcia replied that they had plenty of funds.

Mr. Smith also stated that they were on target to spend all of their child care funding. We got stimulus funding last year and that will end at year end.

Ms. Grisham asked how does someone apply for child care assistance.

Ms. Garcia answered that they can go online and we take walk-ins. The applications go to Panhandle Community Services.

Ms. Grisham asked if a single parent had to present child support.

Ms. Garcia replied that if they do not have child support open, they have to pay a \$25 fee to open up child support.

Ms. Grisham asked if they assisted the parent with all this.

Ms. Garcia replies yes.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further committee comments.

No further committee comments.

Family Support Services of Amarillo – FAST Families and Schools Together Program \$ 16,000
Janet Byars, Executive Director

Michelle Paz, Coordinator for FAST Program, and introduced Brandi Reed, Director of Education, said, requesting funds to provide the Families and Schools Together Program in two Amarillo Independent School District 79107 schools and at the North Branch YMCA. The program involves 55-60 families overall who meet weekly at the targeted child's school or community site for eight weeks for elementary students and 14 weeks for middle school students, followed by monthly meetings and activities for two years in the FASTWORKS Program. Thanked Committee for the \$7,999 that they received for supplies. The CDBG Program has helped us concentrate more on our families instead of having to worry about our financial security. We have had a very successful year. We have served 380 unduplicated individuals so far and that number will increase once we go through the summer. We have learned that 78% of the people who have graduated have seen a positive change within their families. The Continuing Education Program has been increasing every month and we are now looking for a new place for this program.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. Grays asked what type of building are you looking for.

Ms. Paz replied that they needed a place for the families who have graduated where they can meet once a month to do activities as a family unit. We usually meet at the North YMCA.

Ms. Reed added that sometimes they meet at the Buchanan Street Church.

Mr. Grays replied that it was great that they were using a church because he was wondering if that would be a conflict.

Mr. Steelman added that it was alright as long as anyone could participate.

Ms. Reed commented that it was just a building. The families go through a two year follow-up program. It brings them closer together. They want to keep coming because it helps them communicate better with their children. It is a program that is made to fit families.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further public comments.

No further comments.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any committee comments.

Chairman Allen asked who qualifies.

Ms. Reed answered that they always qualify.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any further committee comments.

No further comments.

Community Development – Transportation for the Homeless \$ 9,000
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, requesting funds for the Homeless program to be able to obtain bus tickets for their homeless clients of Amarillo agencies.

Chairman Allen asked if any public comments.

No comments.

Chairman Allen asked if any committee comments.

No comments

Community Development – Emergency Repairs **\$ 400,000**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman, said requesting funds for services that include but not limited to the replacement or repair of sewer lines, gas lines, water lines, roofs, heating systems, water heaters and electrical systems, as well as the removal of open flame heaters, and accessibility for homeowners

Chairman Allen asked if any public comments.

No comments.

Chairman Allen asked if any committee comments.

No comments.

Community Development – Housing Rehabilitation Assistance **\$ 350,000**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, requesting funds to provide financial assistance to lower income homeowners to repair and/or renovate their homes.

Community Development – Rehab Support **\$ 191,454**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, requesting funds to provide the salary and operating support necessary to implement the CDBG funded Emergency Repair Grant program.

Community Development – Program Management **\$ 388,924**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, requesting funds for staff persons which provides administrative support for the CDBG program: Community Development Administrator, Program Coordinator, Secretary II, and Administrative Technician II. The staff prepares the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, the Annual Action Plan and the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report.

Community Development – Rental Rehabilitation **\$ 200,000**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, this program offers a no interest deferred payment loan to property owners as an incentive to rehabilitate substandard rental units. The HOME funds will contribute 50% of the cost of eligible rehabilitation work up to a maximum of \$14,999 per unit. Owners must agree to rent controls for a minimum of 5 years. All tenants living in the units after rehabilitation must have incomes of 60% or less MFI. In multi-family units, at a minimum 20% of the tenants must have incomes at 50% or less MFI.

Community Development – HOMEbuyer Assistance **\$ 250,452**
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

Todd Steelman said, is available to help any low and moderate income household wanting to buy a home. Participating lenders approve the homebuyers for a mortgage loan and then refer them to the program. Eligible homeowners may receive up to 75% of the total down payment and closing costs not to exceed \$5,000, There are no Target Area restrictions.

Community Development – HOME Administration
Todd Steelman, Community Development Administrator

\$ 100,064

Todd Steelman said, regulations allow 10% of the annual grant to be used for administration and management of the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The formula allocation for FY 2010 is \$1,000,644. The administrative funds are not subject to the matching requirements. The HOME staff consists of the Affordable Housing Programs Coordinator and a Housing Assistant. Operating costs offset the cost of outreach and marketing, eligibility screening of participants, evaluation and monitoring of projects, and supervision of inspections and construction management services.

Chairman Allen said, with no further business to come before the committee, this meeting is adjourned at 9:00pm.

Todd Steelman
Community Development Administrator

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