

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

Members Present: Debbie Madsen, Maureen Konz, Sue Mountford, Larry Brockson, Chris Renner, Jamie Tiemeyer, Lyndsey Buseman, Mike Bean, Joshua Siders, Mikeal Hodges, Olivia Becker

Members Absent (Excused): Holly Higgins, Barbara Withee

Members Absent (Unexcused): Edd Savage, Gayle Bennett

Staff Present: Melanie Landis, Finance

Guests: Bruce Snead, City Commissioner; Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager

Public Comments

None

Additions to this Agenda/Comments

City Commission's action regarding Manhattan Day Care and Learning Center

Approval of October 1, 2008 minutes

Chris Renner moved to approve the October 1st minutes. The motion was seconded by Larry Brockson and passed on a vote of 11/0/0.

Announcements

Boys and Girls Club is anticipating a complete move during the Christmas school break to their new facility. Administration for the Club has asked various agencies for assistance during this move. The Manhattan Fire Department off-duty staff will be assisting as well. The new facility will open in early January, 2009.

Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Inc. (MESI) is planning an open house to celebrate their new facility.

Debbie announced that the City Commission voted unanimously last night to allow Manhattan Day Care and Learning Center to immediately access their 2009 SSAB grant allocation, drawing it down as needed through December, 2008. Commissioner Snead and Assistant City Manager Palmer have joined tonight's meeting to discuss the matter.

All Board members should have received the City's new Code of Ethics in the mail. Brian Williams, Assistant to the City Manager, would like to attend our next meeting to discuss it.

SSAB representative to the Riley County Council of Social Service Agencies

Jamie Tiemeyer volunteered to attend the County Council meetings although she added that she may not be able to make every meeting.

Manhattan Day Care funding request

Commissioner Snead apologized to the Board for taking the MDCLC funding emergency directly to the City Commission rather than through SSAB, but felt it was politically necessary to act as quickly as possible. The MDCLC board had voted last month to close the Center as of 12/31/08 due to financial crisis. In an effort to keep MDCLC viable, and recognizing SSAB's strong support of child care services, Commissioner Snead put the request for access to 2009 funding on the Commission's 11/4/08 agenda. A plan is being developed to provide four sources of funds to sustain the Center: public, private,

philanthropic, and child care fees. City staff is working with MDCLC to review financial information and will present a business plan to the Commission in December.

Board members noted that taking this issue directly to the Commission instead of to SSAB sets a precedent that may cause difficulty in the future. However, the Board fully supports the effort to keep MDCLC viable.

ATA Revised Request

Debbie reported that, during last month's aTa site visit, Anne Smith had asked if SSAB would consider a revised request for 2009. aTa is experiencing significant increases in operational costs due to higher gasoline prices and more riders. They are currently in the process of preparing their 2009 budget, so it would be helpful to know now if additional funds might be available.

The Board discussed the fact that there is no extra money in the 2009 SSAB budget, and it's too soon to know if there will be a surplus from 2008. Based on financial uncertainty, the Board declined to consider aTa's request at this time, but might be willing to consider a supplemental proposal in April, 2009. Debbie will notify Anne Smith of the decision, and will talk with Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance, to see if there is a process for supplemental requests.

Discuss Site Visit Findings

Given the lengthy meeting, Board members quickly summarized the results of their site visits.

2008 Annual Report to City Commission

Debbie will review the site visit teams' reports and prepare a draft Annual Report. She'll send the draft to Board members for comment.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board will be held on February 4th, 2009, in the City Commission Room.

Adjournment

The Social Services Advisory Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Finance Staff (Melanie Landis assumed a new position
in Spring Hill, Kansas) and Debbie Madsen*