

ECONOMIC SECURITY CORPORATION OF THE SOUTHWEST AREA

AREA BOARD CLOSED SESSION MEETING

March 1, 2018

The Board entered closed session at 8:15 P. M., following the regular Board meeting. John and Donna White stayed for the session.

John explained to the Board that for the last ten years or so, the Women's Health and Family Planning Clinic has operated at a loss. Their major source of funding is the Title X funding from the Missouri Family Health Council. These funds have been cut each year since legalized abortion became such a hot political issue. We do not pay for or provide abortions, but the voting public in general cannot seem to make that distinction and politicians are afraid to address this for fear of backlash on their political standing. Due to the loss of funding and lack of some of the controversial services, the number of patients has also declined.

We have operated at a \$45,000.00 to \$50,000.00 loss each year, which in the past we have made up with funds from our reserves, and/or other programs. For the upcoming fiscal year of the program (April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019), we had developed a plan to meet this shortfall. This consisted of Freeman Health agreeing to pay the fees of our coordinating physician, Dr. Chandler; use of the staff and facilities to see women and children in the Early Head Start Program; and providing CPR training for our agency and partnership staff. Donna White, our Clinic Manager and Nurse Practitioner, had agreed to take a \$10,000.00 cut in pay. The Community Development department was working on a grant to assist, as well.

These efforts would only have allowed us to keep the clinic going for one year. Next year, we would have the same issues again, and again have to look for ways to make up the shortfall, as we have had to do in past years. In other words, it is a year to year program, with us never knowing whether we are going to be able to continue it the next year.

Donna has been offered another position, to start in two weeks, where she would be able to work as a Nurse Practitioner only, for the same amount of money or more. It is too good of an opportunity to pass up. We know from past experience that it is extremely difficult to find a nurse practitioner for this program, and it would almost certainly be impossible to do at a salary \$10,000.00 less than what we have paid previously. When you consider that the job would have a less than 50% chance of lasting more than one year, the odds of doing so are pretty much nil.

This is an excellent program which has saved multiple lives, and no one wants it to end. There was more discussion of financial options that have been tried, of cutting services, of partnering with another clinic, etc. Most of them have already been tried, with no success.

Because we are required to give sufficient notice to our patients, and make arrangements for files and equipment and prescriptions and medicines on hand, now is the time to take action if we want to close the clinic. We have applied for a grant for 2018-2019, but have not received any news of the status of that application yet. There is little doubt it will be smaller than the grant for 2017-2018.

The officers of ESC feel that it is in the agency's best interests to close the clinic. We would keep the remaining staff on until March 31st, to fill prescriptions, assist patients to locate another provider, give them their files, and arrange for disposal of the clinic equipment or find a lease for it.

There was no action taken during this session, but a lot of discussion. The Board returned to open session at 8:40 P.M.

Henry Lopez, President

Nikki Tappana, Secretary