

ECONOMIC SECURITY CORPORATION OF SOUTHWEST AREA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2018 Meeting

The Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area's Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., at 302 S. Joplin Avenue, Joplin, Missouri. Henry Lopez, President, called the general session to order. The invocation was given by John Joines.

Roll call was taken and those present were: Mike Davis, Henry Lopez, Darieus Adams, Jim Jackson, Jeanna McGarrah, Chester Neel, David Holloway, Doris Fast, Chris Lee, Randy Evans, Nikki Tappana, Paula Carsel, Kevin Johnson, Thomas Wilson, Becky Crane, Yanet Pacheco, Phillip Knott, and Bethany Knoll. A quorum was present. Spring Knott, Head Start Policy Council Liaison, was also present.

Board members Cleo Crosby, Sonia Myers, Melissa Kennon, Karen Buckman, Roseann Lowery, and Janice Franklin were absent. Leo Taylor-Bey has resigned. Henry Lopez made a motion to excuse the absent members. This motion was seconded by Yanet Pacheco and approved unanimously.

Jim Jackson made a motion to accept the amended agenda, which was seconded by Mike Davis. It was approved by all.

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

Executive Director's Report

John stated a lot of projects have been completed this last month, but there are a lot more pending. The Joplin Bungalow LLC project has been in the works for a couple of years now, but finally things are coming together. He has made an offer on the property at 26th and McCoy Streets in Joplin. The offer for the building area was \$280,000.00, and there is a second area we would also purchase for drainage reasons. For the first area, we would use a combination of our money, the grant, and a loan. The second section of land would be paid for by the city.

A meeting was held by three agencies in the area with the goal to expand the CSBG program. We attended this meeting and are looking into some new grants with this goal in mind.

Our Women's Health and Family Planning Clinic closed on April 30th of this year. Notifications were sent out to patients, partners, etc. The property where the clinic was held in Pineville is owned by the County Commission, so we do not have to decide what to do with it. John is 99% sure that Access Family Health Care is going to lease our facilities in Neosho. We have sold some items from our clinic. A physician will be in on Monday to look at the equipment and see

if there is anything she wishes to purchase. We may have to give some of the equipment away. John is working on the disposal of all medicines belonging to the clinic and he and Jerry Nicholson are handling the records requests for patients.

John and Curtis are still looking at additional funding for the rehabilitation of homes. Up to \$25,000.00 may be spent on one of these projects.

Our last new facility under the Child Care Partnership Expansion Grant has been completed. We are currently waiting for the sanitation inspector to sign off on the renovations. Once that has been done, licensing can come in and do their inspection and we can open for business.

We have received word from the Office of Head Start that funding will be available for a cost of living increase this year at 2.6%, but we do not know the details yet. We should know more about this in June or July. We are also looking at funding to expand Head Start services with longer days. Because we are ahead of schedule and goals on the set up portion of the ChildCare Partnership Grant we were approved for, we can now apply for additional grants for more money and services for our program.

This concluded John's report.

Head Start Policy Council Report

Spring Knott reported that at their most recent meeting, the Council had approved new hires, including two Early Head Start Teacher Aides, a Cook, two Home Visitors, one Program Assistant, and a Family Advocate. Stormy reported on Special Services and Leisa on the EHS ChildCare Partnerships grant for the school year September 2018 through August 2019.

The summer food program was discussed. Lunch will be provided on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 noon to one p.m. for children only. However, a snack will also be provided for parents who bring the children. This program will operate from June 4 to July 20.

The council was updated on the Midtown location, and the open house for partner Erin Yost. Attendance at the Head Start centers was up for the month, but down at the Noel EHS. This was due to the absence of two brothers who were both ill at the same time. Since it is a small center, having just two children absent is enough to affect the percentages exponentially.

This concluded Spring's report.

Head Start Update Report

Jeff reported on the ribbon cutting celebration at Kids Club House. This partner site is owned by a married couple very positive about partnering with us. All of our childcare slots at this site are filled. Visitors report that all of the children and staff appear to be very happy, and it seems to be a bright and happy site overall.

Jeff is considering giving the Board a tour of the Midtown site after the July break. Once again Matt Daniel has done an exceptional job. Matt has been asked to attend a Head Start regional meeting in Kansas City to speak on the use of a construction manager.

School Readiness Assessments have been going well. Graduations for the Head Start students transitioning out to Kindergarten start next week.

Our new buses are in the production stage. We expect to have the values of our trade-ins determined next week, and to receive the Vehicle ID Numbers for our new ones then as well.

We are currently taking new applications and filling open classroom slots for the upcoming school year.

Board Training

Curtis Scott, Home Repair Director, and his daughter, Katie, presented a training on the division's work. They actually do two home repair programs, one for our four counties and the other for the Joplin Consortium inside Joplin city limits.

To qualify, a client must be elderly (62 or older), receive 80% or less of the median income for their area, and live in the house for at least three years. The house must be situated on 10 acres or less. These programs are for homeowners only, not for rental properties. A maximum of \$25,000.00 may be spent on any one home, and the program prohibits certain renovations to the home. For 2018, the budget is \$609,650.00, which we expect will allow us to repair 20 to 30 homes.

Executive/Finance/Audit Committee Report

Henry reported for this committee and made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeanna McGarrah, and was approved unanimously.

Henry then made a motion to approve the financial statements for March 2018, including the credit card statements. This motion was seconded by Nikki Tappana, and approved by all as well.

The committee and John had discussed the application for securing a loan from Southwest Missouri Bank for the down payment on the property where the Joplin Bungalows are to be built. Our intention is to borrow \$100,000.00 towards what will be a \$4,000,000.00 property. We have received three options from the bank. Of the two options presented to the Board, the first was to use one of the agency's Certificates of Deposit as collateral for a twenty year loan at 4% interest. We could also borrow the money on a twenty year loan without the collateral for 4.75% interest. When the interest lost on the CD was compared to the interest paid without the collateral, the two options would cost the agency about the same amount of money. The committee recommended that we borrow the money at the 4.75% interest rate. Henry made the motion to do so, which was seconded by Nikki Tappana and approved. Randy Evans abstained from this vote.

Community Relations Committee Report

Phillip Knott reported that of the Customer Satisfaction Surveys returned for the second quarter, the overall approval rating was 98%. This was true regardless of the service applied for.

Only one exit survey was received from a leaving Board member, and it reflected very little

information. Therefore there was not really a report to review for this item.

Agency Personnel and Planning Committee Report

As explained by Darius Adams, the Summer Food Service Program is a reimbursable grant. This means we provide the meals, and then submit the cost to the grantor for reimbursement. We expect to serve fifty meals per day to those eighteen and under at the selected sites. There will be three employees working at each site. It is expected that we will just break even on this program. Darius made the motion to approve applying for this grant, which was seconded by Phillip Knott. Motion carried.

The next item was approval to apply for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Continuation Grant. This is funding for the second year of the grant cycle. The grant total is for \$6,000,000.00 over five years. For this year, we have applied to receive \$1,500,000.00 to serve 74 children. The motion was made by Darius, seconded by Bethany Knoll, and passed.

The Safer Roadways Grant would supply funds to purchase new child safety restraints. These are a new design for the restraint systems, which would have no expiration date and can be used for any size child. This would save the staff the time required to change out the restraints on a bus every time a child is added or removed from their roster. Darius made the motion to apply for the \$2,500.00 grant. Chester Neel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Mainstream Section 811 Voucher Grant is a new grant available. It would be used to assist in providing permanent housing for disabled, non-elderly (under 62 years of age) persons. Once a person is housed under this voucher program, they may stay in the program past the age of 62, however. There are criteria just as there are for the Section 8 Voucher program, and this program would be available in all four of our counties. The motion to apply for the Mainstream Grant in the approximate amount of \$150,000.00 was made by Darius and seconded by Nikki Tappana. It passed unanimously.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Report

Yanet Pacheco reported that Jeff had reviewed the Head Start data for the month with the committee. Results were good, including attendance. No further action was needed.

The committee had reviewed letters regarding monitorings done for the Shelter Plus Care, Chronically Homeless, and Rental Assistance (RAP) Programs. These monitorings were conducted by Legal Aid and reflected very positively on our handling of the programs. No action was taken regarding this item.

The CHANCE, Continuum of Care Rapid Rehousing, and ESC Rapid Rehousing programs were also monitored by Legal Aid. Once again, the results were good, with no findings, and no corrective actions needed. This item concluded the committee's report.

Announcements

Debbie Markman reminded everyone of the invitation to the Strategic Planning Sessions to be held on May 8 and 9th. Any and all members who can attend are urged to do so.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018.

Henry made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Nikki. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Henry Lopez, President

Attest: Nikki Tappana, Secretary