

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY CORPORATION OF SOUTHWEST AREA**

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

#### **August 3, 2017 Meeting**

The Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area's Board of Directors met on Thursday, August 3, 2017, 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.

The roll call was read and those present were: Henry Lopez, Jim Jackson, David Holloway, Doris Fast, Paula Carsel, Kevin Johnson, Lynn Tatum, Karen Buckman, Christina Ives, Chelsea Talbott, Phillip Knott, Chester Neel, and Jeanna McGarrah. Members Bonda Rawlings, Darieus Adams, Janice Franklin, Nikki Tappana, Amanda Martin, Mary Ward, Becky Crane, Yanet Pacheco, and Alfredo Gaytan were absent. A quorum was present. Spring Knott, Head Start Policy Council Liaison, was also present.

Kevin Johnson made a motion to excuse members Bonda Rawlings, Nikki Tappana, Mary Ward, Darieus Adams, Becky Crane, Yanet Pacheco, Amanda Martin, and Janice Franklin. The motion was seconded by Jim Jackson and passed unanimously.

Kevin also made a motion to accept the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Paula Carsel, and passed unanimously.

New members to the Board Chester Neel, who represents the McDonald County Commission and Jeanna McGarrah, who is the Newton County Public Administrator, were introduced.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to be discussed.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Matt Daniel, whom Jeff Goldammer and John Joines had chosen to oversee the construction and remodeling of the new Early Head Start classrooms, has been working hard on completing these. There has been some difficulty getting carpenter services due to the demand in the community for construction workers in the summer, but we should have the classrooms ready in a timely manner.

We have had several monitorings this month. Yesterday and today, there were visiting federal monitors in housing. They were not here to look for errors or criticize, however, but rather to help and advise housing staff of ways to improve their procedures.

Tammy Walker has received notice that we will be receiving an additional funding from Community Services Block Grant in the amount of \$36,000.00.

Jeff and Debbie Markman met with a representative from H&R Block. They discussed some trainings and discounts available for both employees and clients through Block. There is also a program which might generate some funds for the agency.

### **Head Start Policy Council Report**

Spring Knott reported there was no meeting of the Policy Council in July, so therefore she had nothing to report.

### **Head Start Update Report**

Jeff Goldammer explained that approval had been received for a grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics which we have collaborated with Freeman Health Systems on. The Board had been told before about a seminar to be held utilizing these funds, for training on Toxic Stress and how to build resilience to this in children. Coordinator Jennifer VanHoose and Dr. Jeffrey Grills of Freeman Health Systems were present to report on the seminar, the formation of the Childhood Resiliency Council, and the plan going forward.

Only sixteen sites in the United States were selected to receive this grant. The funds are to be used by medical and mental health workers and by early childhood educators to address the issue of toxic stress. Some moderate and temporary adverse childhood experiences are normal, and lead to growth in the child. However, long lasting stressful or traumatic events without protective factors result in toxic stress. This in turn can lead to long-term mental and physical health issues. Factors such as poverty, abuse, an alcoholic parent, etc., lead to such stress.

In order to mitigate the effects of toxic stress, it is important that the child become resilient. Only then do they have the ability to overcome hardship and reach their full potential. In children who develop this resiliency, the most common factor is at least one stable, committed relationship with a supportive adult, whether a parent, caregiver, guardian, grandparent, or other adult.

This half day conference was held to raise awareness of Toxic Stress, bring caretakers together to discuss causes, symptoms, and how to handle this issue, and to provide a tool to help these caretakers to aid the child in building resiliency. In order to prepare for this conference, the group held luncheons, meetings, and media interviews and formed the Childhood Resiliency Council. Law enforcement members, teachers, clergy, medical personnel, social workers were among the attendees. An expert on Toxic Stress from the University of Missouri in Kansas City presented at the conference. There was a report on research that has been done by the Missouri Department of Mental Health on this subject

To determine the effectiveness of the conference, attendees were given a pretest and a post test before and after the training. The results were overwhelmingly positive. Copies of the Family Stress Resource Guide were distributed and attendees were urged to utilize them.

In the future, the Childhood Resiliency Council will continue with training and education in the community. They will support coalitions built around Toxic Stress. They also wish to encourage the holistic model of operations.

## **Board Training**

Board training this month was presented by Tammy Walker, Director of Community Development. The subject was Housing Connect. This program operates in Jasper and Newton Counties. Funding for this program comes from the Continuum of Care funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for rapid rehousing projects and permanent supportive housing projects. It is a community wide, collaborative program involving multiple agencies.

We are the Collaborative Applicant, which means we are responsible for collecting and submitting the Continuum of Care (CoC) Registration, CoC Consolidated Application (a total of nine applications must be completed), and applying for the funds on behalf of the CoC. The goal of CoC is to deliver housing and services to the homeless.

Some of the other responsibilities of the CoC include conducting a point in time count of the homeless in our area, doing a housing inventory count of our area, holding a Project Homeless Connect event in January and July of each year, analyzing the needs of the homeless and identifying gaps in services and more. We also supervise the Coordinated Entry person, who works directly with the homeless applicants of this program.

Planning for this program took nearly all of the first year, which was 2015. We received a \$50,000.00 grant from United Way, which was used to hire and pay the salary of Shonna Greninger to fill the Coordinated Entry position. In 2016 and 2017, we received some funding from the City of Joplin to pay towards Shonna's salary.

Within one month of the date the program began operations, we ran out of housing "opportunities", and have carried a prioritization "waiting list" ever since. Some interesting facts about the program:

- An assessment tool called the "vulnerability tool" is used to determine the prioritization
- Most of the homeless are cordial and cooperative
- Clients are mainly white, single, and over 40 years old
- Since November 2015, we have completed 711 assessments, assisted 146 people to obtain permanent housing, and have 80 people on the priority waiting list who are just waiting for housing openings.

The greatest challenges facing the program are housing opportunities, funding, flexibility of available funds, and case managers.

## **Executive/Finance/Audit Committee Report**

Henry Lopez stated that after review the committee recommended approving the minutes of the June 1, 2017 Board meeting and of the June 23, 2017 Executive/Finance/Audit committee meeting. He made the motion to do so. The motion was seconded by Chelsea Talbott and approved by all.

Next, Henry made a motion to approve the Financial Statements for the months of May 2017 and June 2017 as recommended by the committee. This motion was seconded by Phillip Knott. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The next item for this committee was approval to accept a single source bid from Bryant Electric to provide contracted electrical services for the 2017-2018 Weatherization grant year. The motion was made by Henry, seconded by Christina Ives, and passed unanimously.

Henry explained that we are in receipt of the funds from the sale of the house at 2302 S. Joplin Avenue. We would like to open a new bank account for these funds. They would then be used to build a second home. The motion to open this bank account with a deposit of those proceeds was made by Henry, seconded by Kevin Johnson, and approved unanimously.

The final item for this committee was approval of a sole source bid to provide Head Start/Early Head Start Mental Health services. The bid was from College Skyline Center, LLC and was for \$100.00 gross per hour. Of this \$100.00, \$30.00 would be an in-kind donation, and we would be responsible for paying the remaining \$70.00 plus any mileage at \$0.45 per mile. Henry made the motion to accept the bid by College Skyline. The motion was seconded by Phillip Knott and approved unanimously.

#### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Kevin Johnson reported for this committee. He made the motion to approve the appointment of new Board members Chester Neel, Jeanna McGarrah, and Randy Evans, and to change Janice Franklin to the Public Official category as requested by the Jasper County Commissioners. This motion was seconded by Doris Fast. It was approved unanimously.

The committee had reviewed the Customer Satisfaction surveys for the quarter, and summarized them for the Board. This was a review only and did not require a motion.

#### **Agency Personnel and Planning Committee Report**

Jim Jackson reported that the funds referred to in this committee's agenda were those spoken of by Tammy during her training on the Homeless Connect Program. He made the motion to accept Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 from The City of Joplin to be used to help pay for the salary and fringe for Shonna Greninger, the Housing Resource Coordinator for the program. The motion was seconded by Chester Neel and approved by all present.

#### **Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Report**

Chelsea Talbott explained the results of the Quality Assurance site visit for STD Program services testing. Our Women's Health Clinic was reported as providing good patient and follow up care. There were two forms reviewed which did not have the race of the patient marked. We were rated second in the state of the twenty reviewed for HCV testing.

An email sent to Curtis Scott, the Director of the Home Repair Department, regarding an MHDC Audit of that program for the 2016 grant year was shared. No deficiencies were found. MHDC recaptured \$6,617.00 of undisbursed funds for that grant year.

The annual evaluation at the end of fiscal year 2016-2017 for the Housing Choice Voucher program resulted in a 76% score. There were three areas of correction needed, and further training was needed for an employee. Chelsea made the motion to approve the review, which was seconded by Phillip Knott. It passed unanimously.

The Head Start Monthly Data Report was reviewed by the committee. The Head Start classrooms had not started the new school year yet and the staff for those classrooms were still on layoff at the time the report was prepared. We are still in the start-up phase for the Early Head Start expansion program, and still have three open slots to fill in that program.

This concluded the committee reports for this evening.

### **Announcements**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2017.

With no other business to be discussed, Kevin Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Jackson, passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

---

Henry Lopez, President

---

Attest: Nikki Tappana, Secretary