

**Board of Directors' Meeting
March 19, 2009
Neighborhood Center Card Room**

Members present: Andy Hunthausen, Dave Kirsch, Elaine Graveley, Marvin Williams, Debbie Havens, Twila Harrington, Rachel Haberman, Daniel Pocha, Randy Folstrom, Helen Fandrich, Jerry Loendorf, Theresa Ortega, Matt Kuntz.

Members absent: Crystie Burnette, Bill Roberts, Jon Chacopulos, and Gia Bradley.

President Andy Hunthausen called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm welcoming everyone. Introductions were made.

Marcella Walter with the Senior Center and RSVP Program told Board members about the Crafty Quilters' program that donates quilts throughout the community. For the Senior Center, they donate a quilt to raffle for Senior Center improvements. Raffle tickets are available through Rose if they would like to purchase some.

Daniel Pocha moved to approve the February 19, 2009, meeting minutes as distributed. Twila Harrington seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Head Start – Patty Dahl

Patty passed around some photos taken of the program's "Father Job/Hobby Shares" day. Nine fathers from Head Start 5 at Ray Bjork shared their job or hobby with the children.

Patty handed out information about enrollment/attendance for February, February meals served, February credit card charges, other program statistics as of March 18, 2009, and information about the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center's website at www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov.

Patty also discussed the Head Start budget. Because February was a short month, expenditures were considerably less. It looks as though the CSBG transfer will be from \$40,000 to \$45,000, which is less than originally anticipated.

Patty reported that she was contacted by Head Start's Regional Office about the Continuation Grant the Board approved last month. They asked Patty to revise the GABI section of the grant, particularly the figures which make up the "Other Category Breakdown" section. The only information they want on the grant is the Federal dollars information and they want that number to match the GABI section.

Daniel Pocha moved to change the Head Start Continuation Grant and resubmit as presented. Elaine Graveley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Patty reported that Head Start applied for a grant to the City of Helena in the amount of \$59,650 for two vans with built-in child restraint seats to replace the 1992 GMC vans. She does not know the likelihood of receiving the grant award. The City of Helena is applying for many vehicles via the economic stimulus funds.

Patty relayed that the 2009 Head Start Poverty Guidelines have arrived. Each family size category dollar allowance increased by 4 percent.

The core questions for the Self-Assessment for 2008-2009 are nearly completed. When complete, the Team Leaders will summarize the results which will then be brought to the Policy Council and Board along with any needed plans for improvement.

Patty still has not heard when the Federal Review will occur.

Patty reminded Board members that Extravaganza 2009 will be held Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm at Valley Farms.

Mental Health Update – Elaine Bruce

Elaine reported that St. Peter's Hospital has hired Michael Todd, MSW, as the Program Manager of the In-patient Treatment Center. Michael has a tremendous amount of experience and is actively working to hire critical staff and an outreach person. He will be introduced at the Helena Local Advisory Council on Mental Health (LAC) meeting hosted at the Drop-In Center. The meeting is usually held at the Center for Mental Health. Additional Horizon Behavioral representation will be at the meeting including Palma Flamino, Psy.D., who will be presenting at the Montana Gerontology Conference in April. Renovations should be completed at St. Peter's on April 30.

Elaine also relayed that the Program Manager for the Drop-in Center has been hired. Her name is Kristi Carroll, who has worked at Shodair Children's Hospital, Reach Inc., and St. Peter's Hospital. Kristi is finishing her second Bachelor's degree and hopes to get her Master's degree. They are also getting ready to interview for the Program Coordinator positions and will begin interviewing volunteers so the Drop-in Center can open. Elaine asked that if anyone would like to see the Drop-in Center, she is available for tours, 457-7326.

Veterans Center – Liz Moore

Liz reported that for several months, RMDC has been working with the Veterans Administration and Veterans Foundation to secure resources to expand services for the homeless Vets in Helena. Originally, they were looking at a 40 bed unit, with an additional 10 beds for detox. Currently, there is no Vet detox beds in Montana. The grant would be written through the Veterans Administration. They are looking at a grant to help with per diem and a capital grant for the building. Recently, the Helena Indian Alliance talked with RMDC about using Sheridan Hall. They are currently working with an architect about creating a 30 bed unit, 10 beds for women and 20 for men. Right now the detox beds are on hold. Liz relayed that you can get money for the capital

campaign but only at 65 percent and you have to have match funds, with the match identified with grant submission.

Dave recommended two units in Boulder, the Riverside units. The proximity to Fort Harrison and the services provided there make it important to have the facility in Helena.

Liz reported that the Veterans Administration has the grant available yearly.

Rapid Access Center – Liz Moore

Liz relayed that RMDC last year submitted a SAMSA Grant for \$400,000 to create a Rapid Access Center last year for treatment of the homeless. RMDC didn't receive the grant, so we will submit another SAMSA Grant this year. Liz will bring the grant to the April meeting for Board's approval. On January 20, RMDC participated in the Point of Time survey of the homeless. Roughly 102 people spent the night outside. The number of HUD homeless is close to 250 in the Tri-County area. The number includes transient housing, cars, streets, and hotels but does not include those "couch surfing."

Early Head Start Grant – Liz Moore

Liz reported that this grant is written to provide something like Head Start for families of children 0 to 3 years old. RMDC is working with several other organizations in Helena that want to be involved with the program. Liz is not sure who will apply for the grant but assumes it will be RMDC.

Patty reported that with the COLA increase included in the Head Start funding, RMDC wants to apply for a new Head Start Program in Boulder. Patty met with the Principal and Special Education staff at the Boulder school and they have a place for the Head Start classroom. When the acceptance notification is received, the Federal Government wants the program up next fall. RMDC staff is already working to get that going.

Montana Youth Homes – Liz Moore

Liz relayed that the program is going great. The program has almost doubled the amount of staff at MYH because our belief is that one staff cannot keep eight adolescents safe. The Case Manager is doing a great job and is working on Independent Living skills. They are still building the program and will be searching for funding to expand the program. The State seems to be supportive of the expanded services.

The Jan Shaw Youth Home is going very well and will be completed by the end of May. The high school Design class is doing the decorating. They will be ordering the flooring and cabinetry soon.

Weatherization Program – Liz Moore

Liz reported that the program funding is doubling and Candi, the Program Manager, is doing a great job working with staff to get them ready for the expansion. The program will be hiring another Auditor this week and they did interviews Wednesday for three

more insulation techs. The funding is going to around \$1.6 million for 18 to 24 months. The eligibility requirements have changed and will go up to 175 percent of poverty. The crews can also do more weatherization on each home. The weatherization money limit will top out at \$7,000 per home with the ability to get permission to do more. The program will explore doing more with windows and doors and other measures we have not been able to do in the past. RMDC is also talking to Helena Housing Authority to see if there are ways we can work together.

Liz reminded Board members of last month's discussion of the Emergency Shelter Grant that is going from \$25,000 to \$250,000. The increased funding cannot be used simply for shelter operations, but can be used for helping individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness with financial assistance such as rent and utility assistance. We are waiting for more guidance on this. The grant does require dollar for dollar match but it does not need to be a cash match.

Housing Program Update – Gene Leuwer

Gene reported that while Jeff Miller is in New York, he will provide a written housing report, which was handed out, to Board members and briefly discussed the potential Caird property project.

Retirement Committee Update – Bill Tromly

Bill relayed that the Retirement Committee does not require action; they just wanted to keep to Board informed because of the volatility in the investment world.

Board Committees – Bill Tromly/Andy Hunthausen

Bill also reported that in getting in compliance with the Head Start Reauthorization Act, a financial person is required on the Board of Directors and should be involved in reviewing the expenses. This may end up being part of the Budget Committees responsibilities rather than just one individual. RMDC would also like an individual with a financial background on the Retirement Committee as well.

Andy handed out the Board Committee list and asked members to let Rose, Gene or himself know if they would like to serve on a committee and which they would prefer. Andy reported that he would make Board appointments in the next month or so. Andy also relayed that some committees meet regularly and others as defined in the By-laws. The Retirement Committee meets quarterly in the month following the end of a given quarter so that the quarter's results can be reviewed.

Daniel Pocha moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. Debbie Havens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Felter
Executive Assistant