

**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS:
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Human Resources Commission was held in the Twin Towers Building, PGM Department, 456 Fulton St., Suite 402, Peoria, Illinois, on August 19, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. Chairperson Simkins called the meeting to order @ 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Commissioners were present: Chet Tomczyk, Katherine Coyle, Jim Hancock, Jay McCormick, Judy Oakford, Nancy Rakoff, and Jim Simkins; Absent: Estella Vallejo.

Staff Present: Mike Sims and Linda Belcher

Others present: None

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the June 17, 2011, meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2011, meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Coyle; Approved 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, by viva voce vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion with City Manager

Chairperson Simkins welcomed new Commissioner Erica Baird to the HRC prior to opening the floor for discussion with City Manager Patrick Ulrich.

City Manager Ulrich stated that some of the challenges that the agencies are facing are a manifestation of the downturn in the economy, compounded by State and local governments cutting their funding as well. Resources are not there. Demands are increasing at the same time as funds are decreasing. He indicated that we are probably in for a sustained decline of resources that will be available. The challenge for the HRC is to look at what we want to accomplish with less funding. There has been a lot of talk in the last several years to eliminate CDBG funding all together. That has not happened, however, that may begin to change in the future. We may see less and less funds coming to public service. The HRC needs to maximize the dollar outcomes.

He said the City has a \$9.6 million deficit after the 1st quarter. Even if the economy bounces back, there would still be a \$6 million deficit for 2012. The City has to pare back with reorganization and has challenged the Health Care Committee to try to come up with some savings. The City will definitely be a

smaller organization next year. He wasn't sure where the cuts would be, but wants to work on how we are delivering services and prioritize those services.

City Manager Ulrich said that there are so many people trying to do something good in the community, however, there is a lot of duplication of services. He said that it would be good if we could work with those agencies to consolidate those services.

Commissioner Simkins stated that some agencies may be unable to sustain their services due to City funding coming so late in the year. The first payment to agencies this year will be around September 1st.

City Manager Ulrich said that capacity is a major concern. Do the non-profits have the capacity to maintain services if this funding dries up? United Way cut funding when they went to human based funding. Carver Center funds were cut off by United Way because they did not have the capacity.

Commissioner Hancock said that our application covers all of the items mentioned.

Commissioner Rakoff said the agencies work hard and their income for staff is very low. We know that HUD sets the CDBG cap @ 15%. She asked if the City was looking at using the Public Service funds for other City services. City Manager Ulrich said he does not envision trying to pare that back, saying that he is comfortable with the 15% going to public services.

Commissioner Tomczyk agreed that there is a need for consolidation of these services, saying it would be useful for the Commission to try to lead the agencies to consolidate.

City Manager Ulrich said that one of the rules, as a funder of CDBG agencies, could say that we strongly urge them to prove that they are collaborating services, not just lip service. He said he appreciates the great service the Human Resources Commission provides to the community.

B. Update on 2011 Public Service and Emergency Shelter Grants

Mr. Sims stated that the grants had been received and they were in the amount expected, and have been signed and returned to HUD. Quarterly reports are now being received and processed for payment. Ms. McKnight has received all of the contracts back from the agencies, except for PCCEO Men of Valor. They are discussing whether they can actually use the CDBG funds. Ms. McKnight will update the Commission on PCCEO status. Commissioners asked whether that funding would possibly be available to reallocate to the funded agencies.

2012 Public Service Grant Applications were made available on August 5, 2011. A Public notice was sent out regarding the funds being available to homeless, etc. A correction was sent out stating that funds would be available to low- and- moderate income. The deadline to submit applications to the City will be adjusted since the date published was September 5, 2011, which is a City holiday.

Commissioner Tomczyk asked if we could encourage applicants to be more detailed on the collaboration and how they collaborate with others. Chairperson Simkins said that in future applications we could better define what we mean by collaboration.

Commissioners questioned how to determine if an application is for a new program/agency. Is this a new activity?

Nancy Rakoff brought up the question of how to rank activities that service the Harrison School Neighborhood Impact Zone. Commissioner McCormick said when he reviewed applications last year if the activity was serving the Zone they started out as a 5. If they only served 50% then he gave them a 3. If they did not serve the Impact Zone, that score would be zero.

Commissioner Simkins said that a meeting for the HRC to meet to discuss the applications and any questions they have will be scheduled between the Clarification Meeting on September 16, 2011, and October 3, 2011, the date Commissioners submit rankings to the Planning Department.

Commissioner Baird stated that she would be out of town on September 16, 2011, and unable to attend the Clarification Meeting. She will email any questions she has to Chairperson Simkins.

Commissioner McCormick said that he reviews the applications, even completing the rankings in pencil, prior to the Clarification Meeting and then reviews again after Clarification meeting to finalize rankings.

Commissioner Coyle said she and Commissioner Oakford had participated in the site visits for Boys & Girls Club Commissioner Coyle also attended the site visit for Prairie State Legal, and she said their record keeping was fantastic and it was a very informative visit.

Commissioner Oakford also attended the CASA site visit. The activity is run very well. Statistics are strong and bookkeeping is good.

Commissioners said that Ms. McKnight prepares the agencies for the visit ahead of time and lets them know what we would like to see. She does a good job of organizing these visits.

C. Citizen Comments

Jane Genzel, Peoria Opportunities and Continuum of Care, said that consolidation of services is a term the agencies have heard for years, and yet it is very difficult to see how this is done. In the next application you will ask for more definition of collaboration. Speaking for the Continuum of Care, how do we improve collaboration? We need a discussion sometime of how to do that. If you put it as a criteria for funding, you can drive that. However, when HUD gives criteria, they also provide detailed information on how to do it. She also said that people should have choices of where to receive services.

Commissioner Tomczyk said that groups could go together on such things as buying office supplies.

Commissioner Baird said that there might be two or three places that do interview skills. There needs to be a few agencies doing this, but not ten or more. Which agencies are actually getting people jobs?

Commissioner Rakoff said there are two or three adult literacy agencies in town and they had a college and have collaborated. We had a lot of point services, and we met with other agencies and decided on events. You can't consolidate all of the youth programs in town. You have to be where the kids live.

Commissioner Tomczyk said asking an agency if they collaborate doesn't tell us anything. It should be do you collaborate and how?

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m.; Seconded by Commissioner Coyle; Approved by viva voce vote.

Mike Sims

Grants Coordinator