



City of San Marcos  
Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB)

October 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm  
Virtual and San Marcos Public Library

**Special Meeting – Minutes**

**Members Present:** JoAnn Parsons, Board Chair  
Mary Earls, Board Co-Chair  
Monica Gonzales, Voting Member  
Alfretta Lee, Voting Member  
Eleanor Owen-Oshan, Voting Member  
Malena Pinjuv, Voting Member  
Gloria Quinn, Voting Member

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**Member(s) Absent:** Megan Campbell, Non-Voting Advisory Member

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**Staff Liaison:** Carol Griffith, Planning & Development Services, Housing and Comm. Dev. Manager

**Recording Secretary:** Irma Duran, Planning & Development Services, Comm. Init. Program Administrator

**Staff Present:** Lorena Escobar, Planning & Development Services, Housing Coordinator  
Diego Perez, Planning & Development Services, Intern

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair JoAnn Parsons at 7:03 pm.
- II. **Roll Call:** Parsons called the roll. At the time that roll was conducted six voting members were present, forming a quorum.
- III. **30 Minute Citizen Comment Period:** No comments were received.
- IV. **Consideration of Minutes for October 5, 2021, Human Services Advisory Board Meeting.**  
Mary Earls moved for approval of the minutes. Eleanor Owen-Oshan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **Presentations:**
  1. **Agency: Pet Prevent A Litter (PALS) of Central Texas, Program: Helping Underserved People for a Healthy Community**  
Agency representative Kelli Kennan presented. PALS is looking to expand the program if they receive the grant assistance. Currently, fifty-nine percent of their clients are from San Marcos. PALS also offer vouchers to be used at other vet clinics, and fifty percent of the clients are from San Marcos. The regional animal shelter is in San Marcos, which offers spay/neuter services to

interested in family therapy, they do that as well. Parsons asked if there has been an increase in services this year once school resumed. Vanessa Rodriguez stated there had been an increase because of the pandemic. Owen-Oshan asked about the number of teachers assisted in the San Marcos Consolidated School District. Rodriguez stated about 60% of the educators were from the Hays County area. Pinjuv asked if they will offer more in person services. The response is that the agency hopes to offer more services in person, but most services are offered virtually. Alfretha Lee asked whether this includes interaction with Texas State University? The representatives' response was that there is no interaction currently with Texas State.

**3. Agency: Homeless Outreach, Mitigation, and Emergency (HOME) Center, Program: Hotels and More**

Agency representatives Hannah Durrance and Tegan Debrock presented.

This program intervention addresses the need of a growing population of over 300 unhoused people in San Marcos. HOME is seeking funds for Phase I to establish the transitional housing program which will include up to 90-day motel stays, supportive services, and two staff members required to operate the program. Funding Phase I will allow Phase II to expand into rapid rehousing and pursue funding from the Emergency Solutions Grant offered by HUD. Transitional housing has been proven to assist individuals in moving into and remaining in permanent housing. It has provided the stability necessary to seek employment, apply for benefits, and address health needs. Qualified applicants will include unhoused or displaced households who have identification or proof of income. These applicants may include veterans, victims of domestic violence, disabled individuals, and those impacted by COVID. Once accepted, the clients will attend orientation and set goals with guidance from a case manager. Clients may remain in a partner hotel up to 90 days as they make progress in securing permanent housing or a separate housing program. During their stay, they will be connected to support services offered by their partners. HOME has had proven success in re-housing and transitioning clients and has referred 17 people for emergency housing vouchers, submitted 43 applications for emergency housing, and re-housed 3 households. This funding will establish coordinated entry by allowing the agency to hire a case manager who will do intake to determine housing needs and track the client progress. They expect to progress to Phase II to expand into rapid re-housing by applying for the Emergency Solutions Grant.

Pinjuv asked if they are guaranteed any other funding. Rachel Durrance responded they have only received \$4300 from Mano Amigo and the rest has come from private donations but that they intend to apply for the Emergency Solutions Grant as well as applying for additional city and county grants. Parsons asked which grants they have applied for. The response was they are planning to apply for the Ingram and McCoy grants. Parsons asked how HOME accomplished raising over \$100,000 dollars. Durrance responded they did an extensive fundraising campaign during the winter freeze and connected with several organizations to raise funds as well as using volunteers. HOME provided over 3,000 meals during winter freeze and paid for 99 motel rooms. Earls asked if those assisted were all Hays County residents. The response was that one was from Austin. Parsons asked about upcoming positions and whether they will outsource to fill vacancies. The response was no, they are looking for volunteers. Quinn asked about primary resource for referrals. The response was that referrals come from Southside, Salvation Army and Mano Amigo.

**4. Agency: ACCEYSS, Program: ACCEYSS STEEAAM + BRIDGES**

Agency representative Dr. Shetay Ashford-Hanserd presented. ACCEYSS is a nonprofit organization that provides direct services to close the racial wealth gap and stem equity gap. They receive support from Texas State University through graduate research assistance. In

Quinn made the point that it will be difficult to determine which participants will receive the funding. Griffith stated the board will go through a specific process and that she will provide the board a preview at a future meeting.

Earls stated everyone was very creative and a lot of agencies really want to help the community. Parsons agreed that agencies have become very creative and that Hotels and More was out during the freeze to take care of others. She felt Hotels and More handled money well and put it to good use. She also wanted to thank Durrance who did a lot without grant support.

Griffith stated there will be two more meetings of presentations. The board must turn in their scores by October 28, but these will be preliminary scores and board members will be able to change scores as discussions continue. The first meeting might be virtual and the second one might be in person to allow the board to be interactive in deciding who should get funded and how much. Griffith will send a poll for board members to decide if they want to meet in person.

- VII. **Reports:** No reports were provided.
- VIII. **Future Agenda Items:** No future agenda items were requested.
- IX. **Question and Answer Session with Press and Public:** No questions were received.
- X. **Adjournment:** Owen-Oshan moved to adjourn the meeting. Gonzales seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned without contest at 8:20 pm.

The minutes for the October 12, 2021, meeting of City of San Marcos, TX; Human Services Advisory Board are respectfully submitted on October 26, 2021, by:

  
Carol Griffith, Staff Liaison

Approved By:

  
JoAnn Parsons, Chair