



City of San Marcos
Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB)

October 26, 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
Alfretta Lee, Voting Member
Eleanor Owen-Oshan, Voting Member
Malena Pinjuv, Voting Member
Gloria Quinn, Voting Member
Monica Gonzales, Voting Member

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

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: Diego Perez, Planning & Development Services, Intern

- I. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jo Ann Parsons at 7:04 pm.
- II. **Roll Call:** Parsons called the roll. At the time that roll was conducted seven voting members were present, forming a quorum.
- III. **30 Minute Citizen Comment Period:** No comments were received.
- IV. **Consideration of Minutes for October 19, 2021, Human Services Advisory Board Meeting.** Eleanor Owen-Oshan moved for approval of the minutes for October 19, 2021, and Monica Gonzales seconded. Motion carried.
- V. **Presentations:**
 1. **Agency: United Way of Hays & Caldwell County with Start Smart Hays & Caldwell Coalition, Program: Born Learning**

Agency representatives Michelle Harper and Alex Mylius presented. The program promotes kindergarten readiness, family engagement and community health and wellness. They intend to expand the program “Born Learning” by using “Bright By Text,” an application that is supported by text tools and strategies. The program would enable a parent to text a code word created by the program and a text would be sent to sign up for the program. This application will offer tips, strategies and content that would be customized to each individual. Malena Pinjuv asked if this program is being offered in Hays County. The representatives responded that the program would be an extension of the existing programs that United Way is now offering. Parsons asked

how many parents are being serviced. Harper stated they have at least contacted 1000 families. Parsons asked if parents who sign up for Born Learning are automatically signed up for Bright by Text. Harper stated they would have to receive a text with a code to be signed up.

2. Agency: First Baptist Church NBC, Program: Outreach Ministry

Agency representative Shannon Carr presented. The funding being requested is for expansion of the program and to gather data to further understand the needs of the community. Carr stated that 75 percent of the volunteers had received services from the food pantry and have returned to serve. First Baptist NBC is partnering with “No More No Mas” for mental health services to people of color. They want to help individuals by offering resources needed to sustain themselves in addition to making an impact on the community.

Parsons asked about the partnership with Joanie Wilson. Carr responded that Wilson is a certified counselor that the church refers out to for family counseling. Parsons stated she is glad that the church is offering services in the community. Carr responded by saying she wants to get out and market what they do but have limited resources. Gloria Quinn asked if “No More No Mas” was being paid for services. Carr responded that the partnership with “No More” is being paid, but they also provide training to first Baptist NBC staff. Quinn asked what form of counseling is being offered. Carr responded that “No More No Mas” is providing two employees to assist in San Marcos to establish this program and lay a foundation for counseling.

3. Agency: First Baptist Church of San Marcos, Program: Mission Able

Agency representative Monica Followell presented. The program has been operating since 2013 rebuilding and repairing existing homes. Some projects involve preserving homes with the use of a supervisor to direct volunteers. If the project is above the supervisor’s skill set, then a contractor is hired. In 2021 Mission Able completed 26 projects with the help of 154 volunteers. Some of the projects had been referred to Mission Able by the City’s code compliance division. Mission Able also wants to find another way for those on fixed incomes to be able to make the repairs on their homes without relying on high interest loans or credit cards. The plan for the funding requested is to hire a community coordinator who would handle project referrals and the rest of the funding would be used for direct care and to offer micro loans.

Parsons requested more information regarding the micro loans. Followell stated that the program would need to secure a micro lender to secure funding with low interest rates ranging from four to six percent. One home could have multiple loans for multiple projects, and she provided an example of a house that needed multiple needs. Parsons asked how taxing a loan would be if these applicants are low income. Followell responded that the program would work with the applicant, even using direct care fund with the loan and attempting to offset costs from partners. Parsons asked since the loan was two years, would the agency need \$87,500 per year. Followell responded that the two years are needed to hire a community coordinator, provide direct care and to offer the micro loans. Quinn asked how many people they assist a year. Followell responded they have helped about 20 families to date.

4. Agency: Splash Coworking, Program: Future Proof Your Career

Agency representatives Carina Boston Pinales and Jeff Zhou presented.

Splash Coworking would use the grant to assist people to access lucrative job opportunities by providing resources, training, and support. By 2025 an estimated 70% of the workforce will be working remotely at least five days a month and the percentage of workers permanently working from home will double in 2021. Some of the services Splash will offer will be language and accessibility support, wardrobe rental, professional headshots, resume editing, and interview training. Parsons asked about their non-profit status. Pinales responded they have

their 501 c3 status. Quinn asked for an example of a typical profession they would assist. Pinales stated an example would be an operations manager or quality control manager position. Quinn asked if the agency works with Indeed. The agency's response was that they do work with Indeed to fill positions.

5. Agency: Will Thrive Foundation, Program: Mental Health Services for San Marcos Youth.

Agency representative Eduardo Rios and Laura Johnson presented.

Will Thrive Foundation focuses on clinical therapy, support, nutrition, and fitness programs. They have established key partnerships with organizations to bring local mental health care services to San Marcos. Their licensed service providers will provide services to local kids who are under 18. Will Thrive Foundation has partnered with San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, SMCISD, Texas State University and Greater San Marcos Youth Council. They also offer webinars as part of their program. Johnson is a mental health therapist who specializes in youth and teen mental health. Will Thrive Foundation has partnered with Vida Clinic and because of Covid has seen an increase in the need for mental health services.

Pinjuv asked if there was payment for services, or just referrals to clinics. Rios stated that they do supplement costs up to 100 percent for the clients who are referred. He continued that up to twelve sessions are provided and if necessary, they will offer another twelve sessions. Parsons asked if they partner with the Seek Institute. Johnson responded that the Seek Institute is their affiliate nonprofit with Vida Clinic. Quinn asked if all the board members are family members. Rios stated that is correct, the organization was created after their son committed suicide over a year ago. Quinn asked if this was a paid position. Rios stated all positions are filled by volunteers. Quinn asked how they receive referrals. Rios stated that the schools and the San Marcos Youth Council refer clients. The Vida clinic provides Spanish counseling, which is a unique service that the agencies seek out. Quinn asked if the Vida Clinic was in San Marcos. Johnson responded that it is housed in Austin, but counselors reside in San Marcos.

VI. Discussion Items: Parsons opened the floor for discussion. Pinjuv asked if Will Thrive's application is complete. Irma Duran stated the applicants had submitted some documents and that she would look for the documents that have been provided. Parsons stated she liked that Born Learning has added the Bright by Text program and liked the fact that Mission Able was very organized. Gonzales liked the fact that Mission Able has a self-sustainable plan and provides resources for those struggling with their mental health. Quinn agreed that Mission Able has a pay it forward concept. Owen-Oshan liked the expansion of the Born Learning program. Alfretta Lee stated she liked the Born Learning Program because they reach out to someone who may be suffering with post-partum depression.

Carol Griffith discussed the scoring of the applications. She asked if anyone needed any clarification or assistance as the packets were due on Friday, October 29. Parsons stated that she would need some assistance. Griffith reminded the group that scores would have to be done individually. Griffith stated that scores can be changed during the evaluation process. The tally table will be due Friday, October 29th and at the end of the process, notes will be requested. Griffith stated not every agency has to be funded and that they have about 1 million dollars to provide to agencies. Parsons asked if the meetings will be virtual. Griffith stated they will be virtual since the poll results showed a strong preference for that.

VII. Reports: No reports were provided.

VIII. Future Agenda Items: No items were received.

IX. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public. No questions were received.

X. Adjournment: Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting. Owen-Oshan seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned without contest at 8:37pm.

The minutes for the October 26, 2021, meeting of City of San Marcos, TX; Human Services Advisory Board are respectfully submitted on November 2, 2021, by:

Carol Griffith, Staff Liaison

Approved By:

JoAnn Parsons, Chair

F E M I N A L