

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
RAPID CITY FISCAL YEAR 2006
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRAND FUNDS
January 19, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Jim Sorum, North Rapid Youth Center and Bethel Assembly of God; Jim Castleberry, Cornerstone Rescue Mission; Jennifer Oberg and Eric Christianson, West River Foundation; Tom Shortbull, Oglala Lakota College; Dan Jongeling, Dakota Plains Legal Services; and Margaret Skillman, Behavior Management Systems

STAFF PRESENT: Barbara Garcia and Nadine Bauer

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Deb Hadcock and Karen Gunderson Olson

Barbara Garcia advised that this Public Meeting was being held to receive comments from the public on the proposed funding activities for the Rapid City Fiscal Year 2006 Community Development Block Grant Funds. She further explained that all comments will be given to the City Council for their review prior to the Legal and Finance Committee meeting on February 1, 2006. The Legal and Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the City Council and the City Council will make the final funding decision at their February 6, 2006 meeting. Garcia explained that a finalized plan will be forwarded to Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She stated that HUD has 45 days to review the Annual Action Plan for compliance, and then they will issue an approval of the plan and a release of funds.

Garcia briefly reviewed the FY 2006 Community Development Block Grant Allocations. She explained that during the application process she anticipated that the FY 2006 entitlement would be \$515,000, an 8% reduction from the FY 2005 allocation. However, she recently received notification that Congress required an additional across-the-board reduction of 1% for all government programs. Rapid City's entitlement for FY 06 was reduced to \$507,911. Garcia stated that reductions of \$7,089 would have to be made from the preliminary approved funding allocation. Reductions would have to be made to Program Administration (\$1,418) and Public Services (\$1,063) due to the CAP requirements, and the balance of reductions would have to go to Housing and Public Facilities Improvements (\$4,608). She explained that she believes that the additional reduction to and Public Facilities & Improvements could be made so that there is no further reduction to the funds allocated to agencies in that category.

Garcia reviewed the Order of Business for the Public Meeting and asked Pastor Jim Sorum to begin with his comments.

North Rapid Youth Center – Bethel Assembly of God: Pastor Jim Sorum distributed and read to the group his written comments regarding the Subsidy Committee's recommended allocation of \$25,000 for the North Rapid Youth Center. He explained that Bethel Assembly of God Church plans to construct a full size gymnasium as a multi-purpose recreation facility to bring after school and high risk kids into a safe and positive environment. Sorum stated that he is a firm believer in partnering with other agencies to

accomplish the goal of making North Rapid a better, safer and caring community. He stated that the church is partnered with the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, Club programs for high risk and underprivileged kids, Clothe a Kid Center for Love, Inc., Share Food Center for North Rapid, Oglala Lakota College and North Rapid Community Block Party, all of whom will utilize the new facility and be able to expand their programs. He also serves on a board for the YMCA, the General Beadle Restructuring Team, and Rapid City Executive Ministerial Association Board. Pastor Sorum stated that this building project goes before Council on February 9th for planning review and that they hope to begin building in early spring. He thanked the Subsidy Committee members for their consideration of this generous grant. (See Attached)

Corner Stone Rescue Mission: Jim Castleberry, Agency Director, stated that the Corner Stone Rescue Mission requested \$100,000 for infrastructure/acquisition of land for a 24 unit transitional housing facility for homeless families with children. Castleberry explained that the Mayor's Housing Task Force listed transitional housing as their number one priority at their March 29, 2005 meeting. He further explained that this transitional housing unit will be a solid self-sufficient program. He stated that the clients will be paying rent. He further added that the Corner Stone Rescue Mission recently received a HUD Grant in the amount of \$640,000 and that the City allocated \$250,000 from 2012 funds for this project. He again thanked the Subsidy Committee for their consideration of this project and reiterated that this is definitely a step in the right direction to end the "cycle of homelessness".

West River Foundation for Economic and Community Development – Eric Christianson and Jennifer Oberg - Eric Christianson stated that the West River Foundation for Economic and Community Development plans to acquire aging structures and rehabilitate them if feasible, and/or demolish and replace with new construction homes that will be sold to low and very-low income individuals. He stated that the West River Foundation requested \$100,000 to acquire or rehabilitate 10 homes. Christianson thanked the Subsidy Committee for recommending \$75,000 for this project.

Discussion followed concerning whether the program was limited or targeted to specific identified areas. Oberg stated that they have had discussions with The Weed and Seed program about targeting some properties in North Rapid, but the program was not limited to North Rapid. Garcia advised that while North Rapid is definitely one of the target areas, the program can be used anywhere in Rapid City, and there have been discussions about four areas of town that have aging, run down stock. The four areas identified for targeting by this project are: North Rapid, Old Robbinsdale, Canyon Lake and Center City or the Original Town of Rapid City.

Additional discussion followed concerning the use of Governor's Homes as replacement homes for those that may be demolished and partnering with Rapid City Weed and Seed Program to identify homes in need of rehab.

Oglala Lakota College: Thomas Shortbull, President, stated that Tribal Colleges are significantly under-funded in this country. They receive \$4,500 per student from the Federal Government but that is \$1,500 short for the actual per student actual cost. He also stated that Tribal colleges receive no funding for non-Indian students who attend their colleges. Appropriations by the Government should be able to fund all other

nationalities. In 1999, Oglala was using the Mother Butler center for their classes in Rapid City, and they had outgrown that facility. They constructed a new building adjacent to the Mother Butler property using grants, which included a CDBG grant from the City. Shortbull said they once again need to expand the He Sapa Instructional Center (HSIC) located at 127 Knollwood Drive. The expansion will consist of construction of four classrooms, three offices and expand the student lounge and parking lot, with an estimated cost of \$600,000. They applied for a HUD Tribal Colleges and Universities Facilities Grant in the amount of \$400,000 which requires matching funds for leverage. They applied to Oglala Lakota College for a grant and the City of Rapid City for CDBG funds. He said that he assumed that the Oglala Lakota College would get the requested \$40,000, and expressed his surprise and disappointment that the Subsidy Committee did not recommend any funding for this project. He had thought that it was a given that they would get funded, since they had received CDBG funds in the past for the construction of the facility. He explained that he is concerned that without the matching funds their \$400,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development Tribal College and University Program grant would be jeopardized.

He said that he would ask the Subsidy Committee to reconsider funding their project. He requested that the City allocate at least \$20,000 to \$25,000 for this project.

In response to a question by Gunderson-Olson regarding whether they would lose their \$400,000 grant if they do not have CDBG matching funds, Shortbull advised that he was concerned that if Oglala Lakota College did not secure matching funds on this project that HUD would look unfavorably upon them in regards to subsequent grant applications.

Dakota Plains Legal Service: Dan Jongeling advised that Dakota Plains Legal Services had requested \$20,000 to support direct civil legal assistance services to the homeless, the elderly, victims of domestic violence, and low-income households. Jongeling advised that the Subsidy Committee recommended that Dakota Plains Legal Services be allocated \$5,500, only 25% of what they requested. He stated that their agency is grant driven, and that each grant is specific about the services to be provided; i.e. a domestic violence grant, senior issues grant, Native American issues grant, legal aid and civil services grants. He explained that they are overwhelmed with clients and the additional funding would allow Dakota Plains Legal Services to hire another attorney to assist in working with low income households regarding consumer work, income protection and housing issues. They turn people away for lack of funding every year. He pointed out that they receive almost all of their funding from federal grants, and each of them were reduced by funding cuts this year as well as the additional 1% cut under the same Congressional order that reduced Rapid City's CDBG entitlement. He requested that the Subsidy Committee reconsider and increase the allocation amount for this agency.

Behavior Management Systems (BMS): Margaret Skillman explained that a majority of Behavior Management System's clients are adults with serious, long-term mental illness who also suffer from chronic substance abuse, dually diagnosed and/or victims of domestic violence. She advised that BMS has 505 patients to monitor. She explained that their conditions are serious but can be controlled with medication if taken regularly. She added that some of these medications cost \$100 to \$1,000 monthly per client, per prescription, and some of the clients require 2 to 4 different medications. Skillman

stated that pharmaceutical companies do donate medications to BMS clients through a Patient Assistance Program but this assistance program involves extensive paperwork and reporting requirements that requires many man-hours to accomplish. She also stated that if a medication is changed, the application paperwork must be resubmitted for the new medication. Each medication has different reporting requirements and renewal periods. They have no other funding source that will allow them to cover the salary of a person to handle this much needed medication assistance service. The CDBG funds that they requested will allow them to fund a .75 FTE to handle all of the prescription applications and reporting requirements. She explained that the Subsidy Committee recommended that BMS be awarded \$24,000 to fund this service and that BMS wished to thank the Council for their support.

Castleberry stated that he supports Behavior Management System's medical dispensing project and added that he feels it is a key element to stopping homelessness in the community. He explained that many times Cornerstone Rescue Mission's clients will arrive off the bus from Yankton and come to the Mission without any of their medications and they have no funds to purchase them. He added that keeping clients on their medication is essential to their well being and without this program they are prone to be incarcerated or hospitalized, which is much more costly to the community.

There being no further public comments, Garcia concluded the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Attachments:

Letter(s) from: North Rapid Youth Center

North Rapid Youth Center

January 19, 2006

To: Rapid City Council Members

Re: North Rapid Youth Center
Community Development Block (CDBG)

Dear Rapid City Council Members,

Thank you for considering the North Rapid Youth Center as a recipient of a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant. Our Church and Youth Center is in the middle of the lowest income, the highest minority, and the highest single parent households in Rapid City according to the last census. Our mission is to be a major influence in this community in bringing after school and high risk kids into a safe and positive environment. We currently partner with five other organizations to accomplish this goal. The size of our current facility has greatly limited our programming and opportunities for growth. Our new building includes a full size gymnasium with a multi-purpose recreational area for the following programs:

- **North Rapid YMCA Teen Center**

Our Church has partnered with the YMCA for over four years to create safe and positive environment for our North Middle School students between the hours of 2:30—5:30pm. We have serviced 288 unduplicated students from September 5th 2005 to December 17th 2005. Our Teen Center has become the place to go after school. Our new Youth Center will provide much needed space and greater programming opportunities.

- **Boy Scouts of America**

We have also partnered with the Boy Scouts of America. For many years Boy Scouts have tried to establish a strong Cub Scout program in our community. Because our church provides rooms, supplies, space for their equipment and volunteers, this program has become a growing and vibrant club in North Rapid.

- **Club programs for high risk and underprivileged kids**

Every Wednesday night we provide club programs for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. We take a bus and two vans to Lakota Homes and Star Village to bring underprivileged and high risk children for learning opportunities to build healthy Spirit, Mind, and Body. Currently we involve between 80 and 100 kids each week.

- **Clothe a Kid Center for Love Inc**

This last school year our church facility became the main center and contributor for "Clothe a Kid" to provide new school clothes for over 500 students.

- **Share Food Center for North Rapid**

Our facility has become the center for the Share Food Program for the North Rapid Community. This is a program brings healthy and lower cost food to many families in our community.

- **Oglala Lakota College**

We have opened up our facilities for many activities for the Oglala Lakota College. They look forward to using our new building for recreational and social events.

- **North Rapid Community Block Party**

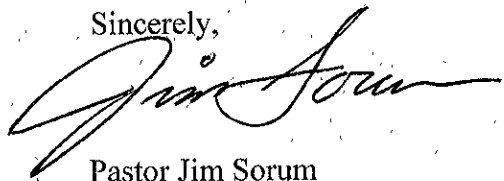
Each year, Bethel hosts our North Rapid Block party, which brings North Rapid together for a day of community building and recreation. This new facility will offer greater recreational and social opportunities for this yearly event.

Currently, as Pastor of Bethel Assembly, I serve on a YMCA board, General Beadle Restructuring Team, Rapid City Executive Ministerial Association Board, and I am personally involved in a number of other community and faith based organization. I strongly believe in partnering with others to accomplish the goals of making North Rapid a better, safer, and caring community.

Our community of faith at Bethel has raised over \$450,000 for this project. We are scheduled to present our building project for approval on February 9th and upon approval, begin building early spring.

Thank you for considering our North Rapid Youth Center for this generous grant.

Sincerely,



Pastor Jim Sorum
Senior Pastor
Bethel Assembly of God

Bethel Assembly of God
1202 N. Maple Ave.
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: 605-342-5415
Email: bethel@rushmore.com