



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022, 4:15 P.M.
COMMISSION ROOM, CITY HALL
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**

Chairman Charles Davis called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. Board members present in the commission chambers Ralph Taylor, Mike Seufert, Bobbie Snyder and Sr. Paula Rose. Brian Keeley arrived at 4:19 p.m. Staff members present were Community Development Coordinator Mary Dwyer and Administrative Assistant Michelle Baragary.

Chairman Davis called for the first item on the agenda: Approval of the minutes from September 13, 2021 meeting. Ms. Snyder moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Taylor and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Chairman Davis called for the next item on the agenda: Public Hearing #1 for the CDBG five-year plan and Annual Action Plan.

Mr. Seufert moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Sr. Paula Rose and passed by a vote of 5-0.

Community Development Coordinator Mary Dwyer asked if anyone in the audience would like to address unmet public needs.

Sr. Vickie Perkins (Leavenworth Attainable Housing) stated a huge unmet need in Leavenworth is affordable and attainable housing. Sr. Vickie further stated a house may be affordable for someone but they cannot get it because they do not have the deposit, first month rent, last month rent, etc. It is almost impossible for individuals working for minimum wage to find a decent place to rent in Leavenworth.

Julie Jenista (Salvation Army) stated an unmet need is transportation. There are jobs in our community but people cannot get to them due to lack of transportation.

With no further comments about unmet public needs, Community Development Coordinator Mary Dwyer requested each public service agency briefly speak about their agency.

Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope

Represented by Myranda Agnew. The three entities within the Community of Hope are the night shelter, day shelter and Welcome Central. Welcome Central is the resourcing center for the community; provides help in getting identification cards, helps with rent and utility assistance, co-pays for medications, limited transportation services and helps with application assistance. Additionally, free lunch is served everyday but Saturday. Served 160 individuals in the shelter and 441 through Welcome Central. 2021-22 fund amount \$7,723; 2022-23 fund request \$13,000.

The Guidance Center

Represented by Rachel Sweet. A community mental health facility serving Leavenworth, Atchison and Jefferson Counties. Provides individual and group outpatient therapy, medication management, crisis services, recovery services, case management, attendant care, psychosocial groups for early childhood, youth, and adults, respite care and parent support. In 2021, served 3,000 individuals. 2021-22 fund amount \$5,299; 2022-23 fund request \$21,940.

Mr. Ralph Taylor asked what specific needs are served.

Ms. Sweet responded all mental health needs as well as medication management within mental health needs.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (CCNEKS)

Represented by Jackie Masoner. Assist with direct financial assistance on rent and utilities. Last year's assistance was over \$277,000. Additional services include food pantry, clothing closet, household items, assistance with food stamp applications and KERA (Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance) applications during the Covid pandemic. Assisted with 217 federal and state tax returns offered through VITA (volunteer income tax assistance). Also offered is the Family Financial Transformation, which teaching individuals better financial and budgeting skills; and Kansas Loan Pool program, which is a pay-day title loan refinance program. 2021-22 fund amount \$5,205; 2022-23 fund request \$7,800.

Saint Vincent Clinic

Represented by Bess Bonewits and Beth Watkins. The agency provides primary care services to low income adults who live in Leavenworth County. Approximately 98% of the patients seen are uninsured; two-thirds live at or below federal poverty levels. Provide primary care services, chronic care management and medication assistance. Provide physical therapy services through the University of Saint Mary, chiropractic care through the Cleveland University of Kansas City and labs/radiology services through St. John's Hospital. 2021-22 fund amount \$11,624; 2022-23 fund request \$11,560.

Mr. Brian Keeley asked if they have noticed an increase in patients served.

Ms. Bonewits responded this past year many people have lost their insurance for various reasons. All patients must qualify for services every year. Their tracking is showing an increase in the number of new patients who are asking for services.

Ms. Dwyer stated in addition to the applications received, CASA would like to speak about bringing forth an application.

Kelly Meyer, First Judicial District CASA Association, expressed a heartfelt apology for not submitting the application before the deadline. The financial support CASA receives from the CDBG funds significantly helps in providing assistance for the 400-500 kids who have been abused and neglected. Over 80% of the clients served are citizens of the City of Leavenworth. Ms. Meyer asked the board if they would like a copy of the completed application before discussing the services CASA provides.

Mr. Mike Seufert suggested Ms. Meyer provide the Board with copies of the application for them to review and discuss for potential funding.

Ms. Meyer continued by stating they operate three primary programs: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Child Exchange & Visitation Center and Child Advocacy Center. The programs provide professional advocacy services to children involved in court proceedings, safe visitation and exchange services to children and their families involved in domestic court proceedings and forensic interviews and ongoing advocacy and support for children who have experienced and/or witnessed crime. 2022-23 fund request \$15,620.

With no additional public service agencies wishing to speak, Mr. Seufert moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Keeley and approved 6-0.

Ms. Dwyer informed the Board that board member Ellen Bogdan has moved, which has created a vacancy if anyone knows someone who may be interested.

Ms. Dwyer stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss public service agency funding.

Mr. Seufert asked what the budget amount is.

Ms. Dwyer stated the budget amount is \$52,471; but this amount is going off last year since we have not received this year's funding yet.

Ms. Dwyer suggested the Board discuss CASA's application and vote if they want to accept it or not.

Mr. Keeley asked if there has ever been a case where a public service agency has missed a deadline.

Ms. Dwyer stated in her seven-year tenure, there has been one other case where someone missed the deadline and the Board did not accept their application. Ms. Dwyer further stated this is an advisory board that advises the City Council, who may either accept or not accept the Board's recommendations.

Chairman Davis asked for clarification that if CASA receives funding, the other agencies will not receive the amount projected in the worksheet.

Ms. Dwyer stated that is correct.

After discussions, there is a consensus among the Board to provide funding to CASA. The funds will be divided as:

St. Vincent Clinic - \$11,624

CCNEKS-LV - \$7,800

Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope - \$11,000

The Guidance Center - \$11,000

CASA - \$11,000

Sr. Paula Rose asked if the Board gets to help in anyway with the two issues addressed for unmet public need: housing and transportation.

Ms. Dwyer responded that these issues will be put into the five-year plan as expressed needs. For the unmet housing need, if in the future, Leavenworth Attainable Housing decides to build or renovate something, the Board could change their allocations of funds. As for the unmet transportation need, the City has applied to KDOT and The Guidance Center has agreed to run the transportation program. However, the City cannot get it started because of the ship shortage. Cannot get the vehicles and the vehicles for the entire State of Kansas all have to be bed by KDOT together. Ms. Dwyer further stated she feels confident this will be addressed this summer as we already have the funds set aside for the City of Leavenworth.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Dwyer announced that Julie McKeel will be the new Community Development Coordinator.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant Michelle Baragary.