

## MINUTES

On April 13, 2023, the **Community Development Advisory Committee** met at **11:00 AM** at the Downtown Amarillo Public Library, Room AB, to provide the committee an opportunity to acknowledge and participate in National Community Development Week.

In attendance were:

<u>Lilia Escajeda, Chair</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Jinger White, Vice Chair</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Mildred Darton</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Glenda Grisham</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Amanda Holcomb</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Edna Neal</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Meg Dejong-Shier</u>	Community Development Advisory Committee
<u>Jason Riddlespurger</u>	Community Development Director
<u>Stefanie Rodarte-Suto</u>	Community Development, Assistant Director
<u>Vanessa Robinson</u>	CDBG Program Coordinator, Grant Manager
<u>Shelia King</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor
<u>Lauren Ebben</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor
<u>Debra Lamb</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor
<u>Angela Snow</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor
<u>Caressa Pena</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor
<u>Samantha Pena</u>	CDBG Program, Grant Monitor

### ITEM 1: **Call to Order**

Lilia Escajeda established a quorum and called the scheduled meeting of the **Community Development Advisory Committee** to order at 11:00 a.m. Lilia read the agenda and advised Jason Riddlespurger to proceed with presentations.

### ITEM 2: **Overview of CDBG/HOME Funding and Outcomes**

Jason Riddlespurger welcomed the attendants for attending the presentations for National Community Development Week.

### ITEM 3: **Subrecipient program presentations to CDAC**

Jason Riddlespurger opened the floor up for presentations and introduced Michael Kashuba, Parks.

At 11:04 AM, Michael Kashuba presented information pertaining to

- Asset Management Plan:  
This allowed his team to assess all equipment and resources available to the program to be better utilized in the future.
- Parks Master Plan:  
This program was initiated to prompt public response to better understand the needs the community was looking for the use of parks. With survey input from 10,000 community members.
- Playgrounds:  
With the help of CDBG 2020 funds, supported remodeling of Sam Houston Playground, an ADA park. With

He concluded at 11:10 am.

Jason Riddlespurger welcomed Vanessa Robinson, Grant Manager with Community Development.

Vanessa Robinson provided an overview of various programs administrated by her team.

- Emergency Repair Grants: Homeowner assistance for emergency home repairs.
- Demolitions: Elimination of slum/blight.
- HOME: Home building activities with Habitat for Humanity.
- ESG: Emergency rapid rehousing for person at risk of homelessness.

- Coc: Continuum of Care is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to homelessness.
- HMIS: Homeless Management Information System.
- HOME-ARP- Future.

#### FY 2021 Outcomes

- Through CDBG program subrecipients helped aid 11,503 persons.
- CARES funding assisted 2 businesses create full-time positions.
- The Rental/Mortgage/Utility assistance program assisted 131 persons and is still accepting applications.
- The Emergency Shelter program assisted 88 people.
- Public Services assisted over 13,225 persons including 43 households.
- The ERG program completed 41 project repairs including 4 minor repairs.

She concluded at 11:16 AM.

Vanessa introduced Greg Johnson, Lead Inspector with Community Development.

Greg Johnson provided an overview of the inspections administered by his team for housing, repairs, and construction.

- Housing Choice Voucher
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- Emergency Repair Grant
- Habitat for Humanity

#### FY 2021 Outcomes

- From August 2022 to March 2023 there have been 26 completed projects with 15 in progress.
- ERG has assisted 41 households.

Greg shared two unique stories and introduced Frank from Frank's Plumbing to speak.

- A family of eleven living together had issues with their sewer back up in the tub. They were unaware of the severity of the issue until it was determined that there was a broken pipe under the house. The department of Building Safety became involved with concerns about the health hazards this posed on the family. Building Safety directed them to Community Development ERG program.
- An eighty-year-old Veteran wanted to live in his home safely. He had no gas, water, or sewer. Many members of the community came together to keep him safe in his house. Other Veterans gave their time to help a citizen in need.
- Frank stated his family's business has been around since 1950. He expressed his appreciation for the help being provided to the citizens as it falls in line with his company's core values of, 'Enhancing the life of every person they come in contact with.'

Greg concluded at 11:25 AM.

Greg introduced Nina Martinez, HCV Housing Manager for Community Development.

Nina Martinez provided an overview of HCV program that's administered by her team.

- Each member of the team receives 300-400 case clients to follow up on a monthly and yearly basis.
- The Housing Choice Voucher program assists 3,320 individuals.
  - 13,900 vouchers were issued in 2021-2022.
  - 129 vouchers assisted Veterans through VASH.

Nina went over the goals for next year.

- Increase voucher issuance by 230 vouchers.
- Increase payment standards.
- Host a Landlord Fair.

As part of the Family Self Sufficiency Program, Nina shared a unique story about Barbie Gann. Barbie was able to build her credit score and graduate from Amarillo College, and West Texas A&M University. Barbie is currently working with the City of Amarillo as a peer support specialist.

Nina concluded at 11:29 AM.

Jason Riddlespurger called for a 10-minute break.

At 11:38 AM, Lilia introduced Alvaro Hrgic, Program Coordinator for Coming Home.

Alvaro Hrgic provided an overview of the Coming Home program administered by his team.

In 2018, the Coming Home team consisted of 2 staff members but has grown to 17 team members. With an 88% success rate the program assists individuals experiencing homelessness and provides components that allow for long-term support.

- 33 participants graduated from the program.
- 210 have been housed.

Alvaro shared a unique story and a 3-minute video explaining 5 major components of the program.

- He shared David Jone's story; David started in the Coming Home program and graduated, David pursued education and achieved his Master's from West Texas A&M University.
- Outreach, Housing Navigators, Housing Support Services, Peer Support Services, and PREP Academy comprehension program.

Alvaro concluded at 11:45 AM.

At 11:46 AM, Lilia introduced Will Grant, Guyon Saunders Resource Center

Will Grant provided an overview for the Guyon Saunders Resource Center (GSRC).

- A homeless day shelter intended to foster dignity and trust with a first level service to help individuals come back into society.
- In January 2022 to December 2022 GSRC reported 1,642 unduplicated clients, 115 daily, and 29,893 units of service.
- They measure units of services by the number of individuals they help with obtaining social security cards, driver's licenses, showers, or any service provided through GSRC.
- In January 2023 to March 2023 GSRC reported 822 unduplicated clients, 140 daily, and 9,010 units of service.
- November 2022 to March 2023, Sunday numbers are 509 unduplicated clients, 112 daily, 1,236 units of service.

CDBG funds were used to pay for the intake coordinator Kevin, and he sees all clients and utilizes HMIS program to track their clients.

Will shared a unique story that involved one of Coming Home specialists, Heather. He Sondra had a 10-year-old son, and he asked her what was wrong. Sondra was in stage one breast cancer that progressed to stage 3 in three months. Coming Home was able to get her into a home and get her apartment furnished.

Will announced the unification of the Joe & Laura Day Center and Guyon Saunders Resource Center to create Transformation Park that will have a groundbreaking on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM.

Will concluded at 11:51 AM.

At 11:52 AM, Lilia introduced Kathryn English Operations Manager for PRPC Panhandle Regional Planning Commission/ FoodNet.

Kathryn English, provided an overview of the PRPC FoodNet program administered by her team.

- Have received funding for almost 2 decades.
- To provide healthy and nutritious meals to reduce hunger and food insecurities in Randall and Potter County for individuals over the age of 60.
- Now, with 242 participants, 80% are in poverty, 76% live alone, and 67% high nutritional risk.
- Served 61 unduplicated individuals in FY 22-23 exceeding their goal of 40.
- Partner with TRIO Community Meals.

Kathryn shared Claire's (Turtle) story. Many of the volunteers are participants in the program. Claire always recommends new neighbors to the FoodNet program but shares the importance of volunteering to serve as a wellness check for other participants.

Kathryn concluded at 11:57 AM.

At 11:58 AM, Lilia introduced Donna Soria, Maverick Boys & Girls Club.

Donna Soria provided an overview for Maverick Boys & Girls Club administered by her team.

- Mavericks Boys and Girls Club sees 600 children daily and 300 children on weekends.
- During after school programs they see 800 children and during the summer break, they will see 1200 children.
- The cost per child is \$800 and they only charge \$31 dollars a month or \$270 for the entire summer for childcare services, which includes 3 meals and field trips.
- Their goal is to provide services where children can be children.

The CDBG funds along with community members helped in replacing the roof.

Donna concluded at 12:04 PM.

At 12:05 PM, Lilia introduced Alason Moorehead Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity.

Alason Moorehead provided an overview of the Habitat for Humanity program.

- They've partnered with HOME for more than 30 years.
- They provide affordable homeownership options in the community.
  - 0-5 years of being a Homeowner provides confidence in homeownership.
  - 6+ years proves a sense of security as a homeowner.
- They have 3 pillars that make the program work.
  - **Buy In**  
Down Payment: \$1500 they can pay this over a period, but this pays for their 1 year of taxes and insurance.  
Sweat Equity: They can help in a construction site.
  - **Education**  
Financial Stability Classes are provided.
  - **Affordability**  
No interest on mortgages loans.

HOME Funds

- Addresses the affordable housing crisis in Amarillo.
- Making Homeownership accessible to all people.

Alason shared a unique story from a family that came from Sudan. Even though she now has received her home and no longer is required to do so, she continues to volunteer in construction sites. She fought for her life in Sudan, but now, participating with other to take English classes.

Alason concluded at 12:14 PM.

At 12:15 Jason Riddlespurger announced that we currently have our NOFA for FY 2023-2024 funding applications available until April 28, 2023. He advised the CDAC board will meet again on May 16, 2023, to review the FY 2023-2024 applications. Jason turned it over to Lilia.

Lilia shared her involvement with the community to help with financial literacy and opened for Public Comment.

#### ITEM 4: **Public Questions/Comments**

1. Public Comment: Sundee Rossi – Has worked with CDBG funds and loves how the love echoes in the room.
2. Public comment: Howard Smith— He advised that in the 70's he served in the City of Amarillo's CDAC board. He thanked them for what they did.

#### ITEM 4: **Invitation to join Activity Site Visits. Transportation provided to Warford Activity Center, Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle**

At 12:31 PM a City of Amarillo Transit Bus arrived at the Downtown Library to take individuals to the first site visit at the Warford Activity Center.

The tour provided information about the weight rooms, pool, activity classrooms, senior center classrooms, dance studios, game room, community garden. They advised that with the help of the CDBG funds they were able to fix their HVAC system.

Warford tour concluded.

Catholic Charities of Texas Panhandle Hunger Project tour, led by Christopher, provided a tour of their pantry and their current inventory, volunteer opportunities, and program overview. Chris provided information about the loading dock and how CDBG funds will assist in floor replacement.

Christopher concluded the tour.

**ITEM 5: Adjournment:**

City of Amarillo Transit Bus arrived at the Downtown Library Branch and Lilia Escajeda adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM.

---

**Vanessa Robinson**, Grant Manager

---

Date