

**MINUTES**  
**HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING**

Garfield County Southwest Center  
609 North Main Street #6, Panguitch

**Tuesday March 8th, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Barbara Robinson  
Ms. Cary Faye

Mr. Arthur Cooper  
Ms. Deon Alvey

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff  
Ms. Marsha Perkins  
Ms. Minnie Pittman

Commissioner Jim Matson  
Mr. Craig Hansen

Commissioner James Eardley  
Dr. Kent Heideman  
Ms. Rebkah Bowman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Sherri Dial  
Ms. Jane Lewis  
Ms. Brenda Mckee

**EXCUSED:**

Commissioner Leland Pollock  
Mr. Wallace Gibson  
Commissioner Mark Whitney

**REPRESENTING:**

Beaver Community Rep. (via teleconference)  
Beaver Co. Low Income Rep. (via teleconference)

Garfield Co. Community Rep.  
Garfield Co. Low Income Rep.

Iron County Commissioner  
Iron County Community Rep.  
Iron County Low Income Rep.

Kane Co. Commissioner  
Kane County Low Income Rep.

Washington Co. Commissioner  
Washington Co. Community Rep.  
Washington Co. Low Income Rep.

Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments  
Five County Association of Governments

Garfield Co. Commissioner  
Kane Co. Community Rep.  
Beaver Co. Commissioner

The Human Services Council Meeting was held at Garfield County Southwest Center, 609 North Main Street #6, Panguitch, on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Kent Heideman welcomed all in attendance and declared a quorum was present. Ms. Cary Faye and Ms. Barbara Robinson joined the meeting on the telephone. Ms. Stephanie Bordeaux joined the meeting by web conferencing. Dr. Heideman asked Ms. Rebkah Bowman to introduce herself as the new Washington County Low Income Representative. Ms. Bowman gave a brief introduction about herself and her background. Ms. Bowman shared that within the last year and a half she has helped with the formation of the Grace to Families Coalition which is a bridge between the issues and answers of people that are trying to mainstream back into society. The Grace Families Coalition is working on providing community awareness and people in need with wrap around services. Dr. Heideman asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 MINUTES & AGENDA

Ms. Pittman suggested changing the language from "Commissioners Jim Matson is representing Dirk Clayson" to "standing in for". On page 2 change to "annual income of \$13,000".

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. MINNIE PITTMAN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND ADOPT JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 MINUTES AS AMENDED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DALE BRINKERHOFF. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. HISTORY OF CSBG & SSBG

Dr. Heideman passed out an overview sheet which explains how the grants are received and allocated. Dr. Heideman turned the time over to Mr. Art Cooper to present the history of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) and Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funds. Mr. Cooper handed out two flow charts describing the funding process. The CSBG and SSBG are both funded on a federal level by the Department of Health and Human Services. The CSBG funds are allocated to the Five County Association of Governments from the Utah Department of Community and Culture. The SSBG funds are allocated to the Five County Association of Governments from the Utah Department of Human Services. The Human Service Council allocates the funds to community non-profit agencies within the five counties. Mr. Cooper explained the purpose of both SSBG and CSBG funding. The purpose of SSBG funds is to enable each state to furnish Social Services best suited to meet the needs of the individuals and families residing within the State. Services funded by the SSBG are directed at five goals which are: achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency; achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency; preventing abuse or neglect of children and adults unable to protect their own interest; preventing or reducing inappropriate care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, and other forms of less intensive care. The purpose of CSBG is to provide community action agencies funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

#### IV. CSBG 6 MONTH REVIEW

Dr. Heideman turned the time to Ms. Jane Lewis to discuss the six month review. Ms. Lewis explained that all of the grants operate on several fiscal years. The state fiscal year is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 31<sup>st</sup>. The federal fiscal year is October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 31<sup>st</sup>. The SSBG funding operates on state fiscal year and CSBG operates on federal fiscal year. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) operate on the calendar year. The fiscal year information about contracts and dates are located in the binders that were given out. Ms. Sherri Dial commented that anyone is welcome to view the information about the contracts that are stored in binders at the Five County Association of Governments building in St. George. Ms. Lewis passed out the six month report populated from the FACS Pro database. The amount of CSBG funds the Five County received for fiscal year 2011 was \$286,194. Ms. Lewis presented demographics of people served within the last five months. There were 5,387 individuals served and 2,294 families. The average of individuals served is between 24-44 years of age. The average size of family is 2.3 per household and 78% have received at least a GED. There was 25% of 2 parent households served. The poverty threshold for CSBG is 125%.

Ms. Marsha Perkins commented that she has spent a lot of years working with people in poverty. Ms. Perkins explained there is a large population of people which are under educated and trying hard to just get by. These families have few resources and often no family to turn to for help. Ms. Perkins stated that the families are so close to the edge of survival they don't even have enough money to budget. Commissioner Eardley asked Ms. Perkins if there is anything the Human Service Council can do differently from what the council is doing now. Ms. Perkins responded by looking for new ways and different ideas to help serve low income people.

There was a short discussion regarding entitlement programs. Ms. Lewis stated that entitlement programs are to help level the playing field of people who are low income. Entitlement programs are means tested using various criteria including age, income, and ability. These programs include Social Security and Medicare. Ms. Lewis reported that 17% of the people served in Community Action during the last six months were homeless. Commissioner Jim Matson asked Ms. Lewis if the database creates query reports. Ms. Lewis responded that the database can query information needed and she will be able to create a report if any member of the council would like to see. There were 296 individuals that received temporary shelter and 2,097 received a food box. A total of 16,382 food boxes were distributed which equaled 1,004,973 pounds of food.

Ms. Lewis explained to the council about the Point-in-time (PIT) count. The count was more comprehensive this year. Many local agencies helped to collect a more accurate count of homeless people in the five counties. Ms. Lewis announced to the council some of the agencies that helped with collecting the homeless count included Dixie Regional Medical Center, Washington County Library, St. George Soup Kitchen, LDS Transient Services, Grace Families Coalition, St. George Police Department, Veteran's Affairs, Iron County Care & Share, and many volunteers. Ms. Lewis stated that Ray Sim at the Iron County Care & Share coordinated with Beaver, Kane, and Garfield Counties.

Ms. Lewis updated the council on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). There have been 966 tax returns filed so far this year through the VITA program. Ms. Lewis has been encouraging people to use this service and have the funds deposited in

their bank accounts. We want people to avoid using the same day loans to access their refunds so they are able to receive more money back.

Ms. Lewis gave information about the Community Sharing Information (CSI) workshops. The workshops are continuing to be very successful in training the Case Managers. There has been a lot of information given to the agency providers and a focus on strength needs assessment and how to better assess the clients. Ms. Lewis announced there were 51 agency providers that attended the last CSI workshop.

#### **V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Dr. Heideman turned the time to Ms. Sherri Dial to discuss what has been happening regarding the budget cuts with the legislature. Ms. Dial explained that Community Action was prominently mentioned in the State of Union Address. President Obama recently made the decision to include a cut to CSBG funding of 50% in his 2011 budget. At this time the budget decision is in continuing resolution. Community Action is the gap filler that helps agencies to continue to provide services. If the funding is cut the food pantries in the small areas will have the greatest impact. Ms. Dial encouraged everyone to talk to legislature about the needs for the community resources. Ms. Dial said that she does not believe the funding will be cut by the entire 50% because the House of Representatives is fighting hard to save the funding. At the next Human Service Council meeting there may be a discussion about the way funds can be used the most effectively in providing services. Ms. Lewis made a comment about when we reduced funds at Millcreek High School Young Parent Program the School District did not pick up the difference in funding. These funds help young parents to continue to attend high school and graduate.

#### **VI. EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER UPDATE**

Ms. Dial updated the council on the Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP). The Five County Association of Governments does not know how much money is going to be received. The EFSP board has approved the applications and they have been distributed. Ms. Dial explained that when the Five County knows how much money will be funded then the EFSP board will get together and decide which agencies will get money and how much will be allocated to them. The deadline for agencies to apply is March 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VII. PUBLIC FORUMS**

Ms. Dial passed out information about Public Forums. The public forums are meeting to learn about the concerns and needs in the community. Ms. Dial passed out a flyer on the dates and times of the forum in each county. Ms. Dial encouraged Commissioners and agency representatives to come share their opinion. Ms. Barbara Robinson commented that she has had community members approach her and ask if the needs are going to be met within their community. Ms. Robinson would like to see more questions being addressed at the Public Forum where resources can be made available to the participate. Ms. Minnie Pittman commented in past forums the people have been split into groups. The purpose of public forums is for the community members to discuss their concerns and give an opinion on how their needs can be best met. Ms. Pittman stated that by having individuals participate and be more involved in the decision making may be the best approach.

#### **VIII. HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTORY**

Ms. Dial handed all council members a Human Services Directory. The Human Services Directory has information of all the services available in the Five County

area. Ms. Dial asked all members to look through the book and if there is anything they feel needs to be added to let Five County know. Ms. Dial explained that the directory will be posted online on the Five County Community Action website.

**IX. OTHER**

The council discussed possibly changing the Human Service Council meeting schedules to better fit the driving conditions.

Ms. Dial announced to all council members of the "Poverty Simulation" which will be taking place. Ms. Dial explained that Community Action Partnership of Utah will be coming down to help facilitate the meeting. The Poverty Simulation is an activity where the participants are helped to understand the issues people deal with when they live in poverty. The simulation is a good opportunity to come participate and see what it is like to live in poverty for a month.

**X. NEXT MEETING**

Dr. Heideman announced the next Human Service Council meeting will be held May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Beaver County Southwest Center, 75 West 1175 North, Beaver, at 10:00 a.m.

**XI. ADJOURN**

Dr. Heideman adjourned the meeting.