

## **AGENDA ITEM # IV.**

### **REGIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UPDATE**

In August 2011, Sherri Dial provided a detailed regional supportive housing report that documented a substantial increase in homelessness across southwestern Utah. One major approach to addressing homelessness is the development of transitional housing opportunities that allow individuals and families to stabilize their situation in a facility that provides longer term occupancy than emergency shelters.

The Steering Committee authorized the Volunteer Center and Community Action staff to “pursue funding that would support a supportive housing project to serve the five-county region, with progress reports to the board from time-to-time and placing no expectations on this board to divert existing funding or ultimately fund the project.”

During the intervening months, staff has negotiated a contract with the Department of Workforce Services to provide temporary rental assistance and counseling. That contract has helped 39 families get into apartments, with more than 85 percent still in place. Another 75 individuals have received case management and counseling.

Staff has also pursued a project that would be established on 5 acres provided by St. George City to construct a 92-unit transitional housing project. Preliminary construction plans have been prepared, and \$5.5 million dollars in state and private funds have been pledged. An additional \$1.5 million will allow the construction of a facility that would be debt-free. A funding request has been submitted to the LDS Church foundation to fill that need.

It is evident that the missing link at this time is an entity that will operate and maintain the project. One possibility is the Friends of the Volunteer Center, an existing non-profit. Another is the creation of a non-profit covering the five county region.

The need for a non-profit organization to complement the mission of Associations of Government in Utah has been accomplished in other regions. This topic will be addressed in the September meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM # V.**

### **Central Utah Foster Grandparent Program**

Foster Grandparents is one of three major programs sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Participants are income-qualified seniors who provide literacy assistance in public schools, usually as reading tutors. Foster Grandparents are screened and undergo a background check. They receive a small stipend and are reimbursed for travel to and from schools. Staff at the Five County AOG works with 26 participants in the region.

A Foster Grandparent program covering counties in central and southeastern Utah has been relinquished by its current sponsor. The Utah State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service is encouraging Five County AOG to take on the program because the staff already administers a successful and vibrant Foster Grandparent program.

Southeast Utah AOG has explored the possibility of applying for the grant, but determined that the organization was not prepared with experienced staff to take on the program.

Counties covered by the program include Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan and Tooele, including portions of the Navajo Nation. More than 40 seniors participate in the program. Schools in that region are ready to continue the activity as the school year begins. Participating local governments have pledged to continue funding the required local cash match, along with an in-kind match of lunches provided by participating school districts.

Carol Hollowell has analyzed the project, and determined that she and her staff can take on the additional load, with the addition of one full time coordinator based in northern San Juan County.

This proposal is similar to the operation of the Child Care Resource and Referral program that covers 11 counties in southwestern and Central Utah. One employee is based in Richfield to cover central Utah.

A grant application for \$187,025 plus a \$20,000 cash and in-kind match has been packaged and provided to the Utah State Office. A grant award is scheduled for 17 August.

Pursuant to AOG Bylaws, the Steering Committee must approve this unique opportunity to expand staff operations into southeast and central Utah.