

FORT MONMOUTH ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND PLANNING AUTHORITY

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSAC)
MINUTES ON PUBLIC MEETING, May 20, 2008

The FMERPA Social Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) public meeting took place on May 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the FMERPA office located at 2-12 Corbett Way, Eatontown, N.J.

In attendance were **Committee Members**: Rose Estephan, Laurie Cannon, and **FMERPA Staff** Member: Diane Canterbury, Rick Harrison. **Public** in attendance: Tom Mahedy, Philip Welch, Beverly Bova Scarano, Steve Heisman, John Yaecker, Tara Maffei, Kathy Callan, 180 Turning Lives Around.

1. **Call to Order**: Rose Estephan
2. **Open/Welcome/Introductions** - Rose Estephan - Rose welcomed everyone and acknowledged all in attendance.
3. **Review of Prior Meeting Notes**: All attendees reviewed; no modifications were provided. **Public Comments**: Tom Mahedy stated that the previous minutes again did not reflect his frustration to the issues adequately. It was explained to Tom Mahedy and the other attendees that the minutes are not verbatim but, are a synopsis and outcome of discussion topics.
4. **Discuss SSAC Recommendation to FMERPA**: Rose Estephan provided a brief synopsis of where the committee is in reference to NOI evaluations. She also discussed the actions that will follow the formal recommendation from the SSAC. Rick Harrison discussed the HUD application and next steps in that process. He explained the report he would be compiling to include all of the information and data obtained through the SSAC, the County Consolidated Plan, input from the public, site visits, and NOI submitters. He also explained that there would be a public hearing on the HUD application and that all public comments on the application and the plan would also be summarized and forwarded with the application.

Lynn Miller spoke about the draft-unofficial results of the last Point-in-time survey held in January. She reiterated that these results were only draft and not official and that the official results should be released in June. It would not be appropriate to document unofficial numbers in this document however, the take-aways from our discussion of the numbers indicated that 1. the number of homeless families went up about 40% and 2. total homeless persons went down. Subsequent discussion by providers indicated that they are seeing the increase in family homelessness and that they are also seeing more homeless large families.

Discussion topics then drifted in and out of affordable housing and homeless housing. There was discussion regarding the financial concerns of public officials related to both homeless and affordable housing. John Yaecker discussed a situation with Habitat for Humanity whereby a unit provided to a family at an affordable price but was carried on the tax roles as market priced and that the resulting property taxes were

at market rate. Steve Heisman related that his organization makes payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to help defer the expense caused by his properties. There was also discussion about the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP) and the Residential Healthcare Facilities (RHCF). Steve promised to forward a link to a State Public Advocate paper on RHCFs. Lynn Miller also spoke about some figures from the United Way 211 project indicating that over 50% of the 73,000 calls to 211 were housing related.

5. **Discuss Path Forward:** Rose informed the committee attendees that the path forward was being concentrated on the NOI evaluations. She solicited comments and recommendations from all participants for input to the SSAC recommendations.

6. **Schedule Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the FMERPA office located in Eatontown, NJ.