

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
CRAWFORD- SEBASTIAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
OF FORT SMITH, AR

March 10, 2015

The Advisory Council of Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council of Fort Smith met in regular session on Wednesday March 10, 2015 in house at Crawford- Sebastian Community Development Council. The following council members and guest were in attendance: Karen Phillips, Kate Porter, Michael Fuchtman, Griselda Perez, Donna Hyde, Veronica Quinteros, LaToya Campbell, Violet Adams, Ronnie Miller, Patty Riley, Dean Wein, Calvin Williams, Paul McCollom II, Helen Fox, Delmi Sanabria, Grissa Schmitz, and Tricia Watson. We did have a few members that were not in attendance.

Karen Phillips called the meeting to order at 11:40am

Applications Approved

Karen announced that we were approved for a \$10,000 grant from State Farm. The NeighborWorks OU Grant has been approved for \$110,000, which is \$35,000 more than last year. Also we received \$255,000 from the City of Fort Smith, which is a large increase as well.

Karen also informed the council about the partnership we recently started up with the Fort Smith Housing Authority to build new homes through a formal RFQ that was advertised. FSHA was selected in the process as the contractor who would build the new homes in Fort Smith.

Applications Awaiting Approval

Karen stated that Latoya submitted an application to Wells Fargo for funding. We are still waiting on the NeighborWorks funds for \$50,000 for the 50th Anniversary for CSCDC. An application was submitted with Arvest Bank, FHLB of Dallas First Financial, FHLB of Dallas Benefit Bank, in which we use for our Down Payment Assistance, FHLB of Dallas Arvest Bank, in which we use to fund our owner occupied rehabbed homes. We also submitted an application for \$630,000 with ADFA to build 41 single family homes in Kibler in Van Buren, in which we will be the sole general partner and receive 100% of the cash flow, also applying one for a 58 unit duplex for \$450,000, but we will not have sole general partnership ownership of the units. Also \$630,000 was requested for the CHDO homes in Cedarville. Dean Wein put in for a \$450,000 funding for the ADFA reconstruct program.

Griselda Perez, CSCDC'S Housing Counseling Manager / DPA Coordinator, reported on October 2014 through December 2014. CSCDC counseled 156 clients and 25 pre-purchase/ credit review clients, totaling 234 clients assisted. We are building the confidence in our clients and teaching them decision making when it comes to buying or refinancing their home. We are constantly teaching budgeting to our

clients, we want them to be able to be confident in the daily spending of their lives and making smart choices.

Houses for sale or purchased/ REHAB

Calvin Williams is CSCDC'S Housing Services Manager. Calvin stated that we are doing great on acquisitions. We sold the property on South 17th St and 7812 Martin. Also stating those were the last two properties we had for sale, now making all of our Rehabilitated homes sold.

Self-Help Housing

Michael Fuchtman is CSCDC's Self Help Housing Manager. Michael stated that Self-Help is picking up a lot this year and facebook is really assisting with getting the word out about his program. He stated he has 7 apps sent in. We have all 25 of our current grant turned into RD with 2 pending to be approved and 8 getting ready to close. We already have the waiting list going for the next grant.

Karen indicated that we are catching up and doing a lot better; however, weather was causing long delays in the construction process.

IDA Program

Kate Porter is CSCDC'S IDA Case manager. Kate stated that the IDA program is picking up very quickly lately. Between October and now she has had 23 new IDA clients open new account for Small Business, Homeownership, Home Repairs and Education. All clients are doing very well in their saving habits and completing their initial goal. There are currently 47 IDA clients saving towards their goals.

Weatherization Program

Veronica is with the Weatherization Department. She stated their goal is to make homes more energy efficient from the department of energy for the elderly and disabled. Their main projects are insulation and caulking. They have service 35 units in the last quarter, 40 for this quarter, currently 315 application on hand now and 13 partnerships. Currently weatherization assist 10 counties and are currently starting to be able to assist more. Helen, a board member asked how do clients find out about the weatherization program and Veronica answered its normally word of mouth, referrals or ads.

Advisory Council Member Ideas

Some statements that were made by our members giving their input on what is going on. Karen spoke about CSCDC's name and service area stating our name does not serve our agency properly and that our agency is unable to have board members from counties other than Crawford and Sebastian. CSCDC's programs serve many different counties, up to 11 counties total.

Karen spoke on the Riverview Hope Campus and that she is the president of the old fort homeless coalition. The group has raised all the money for the campus to move forward and will bid out the

rehabilitation this summer. Work will be started in September. Currently the community has more homeless people than ever.

Karen closed with telling the council of the new building that CSCDC is moving too. She stated the building is on Zero St. in Fort Smith and is still in the process of being rehabilitated and we are hoping to be in the building in 2015 by the agencies 50th Anniversary. Helen asked about the 50th anniversary meetings and said there were no current subcommittee meetings, but there is one for the main event on 3/19/2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm