

Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.
Community Support Committee

MINUTES
December 4, 2008

The Community Support Committee meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Committee Chairman Marshall Hatfield.

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Hart Mr. Marshall Hatfield

Staff Present:

Ms. Sheila Boling, Housing Services Director
Ms. Tracie Howe, GRITS Assistant Director—Administration
Mr. Michael Hughes, GRITS Assistant Director—Operations
Mr. Dan Lanham, GRITS Transit System manager

NEW BUSINESS

GRITS Transportation.

Mr. Lanham began the business meeting reviewing current GRITS operations.

Parking Garage. Mr. Lanham stated that the 222 St. Elizabeth Street parking garage is coming along well, and now appears to be starting to get somewhere. All of the pre-cast concrete has been set and the ramp and deck is, for the most part, finished.

Mr. Lanham discussed the possible impact of the proposed Owensboro downtown development on the GRITS parking garage project.

Human Services Transportation Delivery (HSTD) Startup. Mr. Lanham advised the Committee that the number of rides GRITS provides per day is now up to around 2,200. The November money for Region 3 was \$259,000 and \$233,000 for Region 5. He also gave the Committee an update on Medicaid statistics. A total of 700,000 people are on Medicaid in the state of Kentucky. The average number of *new* eligible Medicaid clients in the state of Kentucky is up to 3,500 per month.

GRITS has had a total of six complaints between Region 3 *and* Region 5 this month. This is an improvement from the twenty-six per month it started out getting.

Specter of Active Day's Discontinuing Transportation. GRITS does have a new challenge coming up, though. Jeff Nolan with Active Day called and informed the GRITS management that Active Day was thinking about getting out of the transportation business in both GRITS-served regions. They would not quit without warning, Nolan promised, and would work with GRITS on any transition. This would affect Butler County, Daviess County and Edmonson County. This would mean GRITS would need to take on an additional 160 rides per day, said Mr. Lanham. He has discussed this with the Office of Transportation Delivery and they are prepared to offer assistance to GRITS to come up with additional vehicles from other agencies.

NEW FREEDOM. The “New Freedom” service and rural-county-to-urban-centers routes began last week. GRITS management has really not publicized this much because they wanted to start slow. Plan to advertise with newspaper articles and such are called for in the near future.

“State of Good Repair” Grant Application. Mr. Lanham informed the Committee that GRITS was applying for a Discretionary Grant now called the “State of Good Repair” grant. GRITS had originally applied for \$700,000 but has recently been told that it may receive \$100,000.

Mr. Hatfield made a motion to recommend Board approval of this \$100,000 State of Good Repair grant request and resolve approval of the required Local Share Resolution and Authorizing Resolution. Mr. Hart seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Lanham informed the Committee that once the money came through it would have to be spent quickly, due to fiscal year issues.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Training. Mr. Lanham, Michael Hughes, and Byron Mayes have been to a seminar to learn how to bill for the Hybrids. The paperwork has been processed. Finding the Hybrids is the next challenge. The 2009 production has been sold out. The money is on its way.

GRITS’ Reduced Fuel Costs. Mr. Lanham informed the Committee that since the price of gas has been reduced, GRITS’ monthly gas bill had gone from \$62,800 to \$38,000.

Housing Services.

Ms. Boling began with a review of the agency’s three new affordable housing tax credit properties:

The Learning Villa — Update. All fifty-six (56) housing units at The Learning Villa have been rented. The complex is completely full and has several on the waiting list. The staff is having a problem with parking because “too many” handicapped spaces were installed (according to requirements) and there are now not enough *regular* parking spaces. It has since been approved by Kentucky Housing Corporation to remove some of the handicap spaces. The signs have been removed, but the builder cannot pave over the spaces until it is warmer.

Due to this fact, many of the residents have received parking tickets from the Owensboro Police Department. The Police Department was announcing at roll call *not* to ticket anyone up here until further notice, but just last night residents were ticketed again. City Hall has agreed to waive those tickets until the site situation can be correct at the complex.

Independence Heights. The Independence Heights project for former foster youth was expected to open at least one building by the end of December, but the heat has still not been totally installed. Therefore, it is not anticipated that any building there will open until after the first of the year. Once the heating system is up and running, it needs to be running for at least two weeks before anyone can move in.

Housing Services, Human Resources, Finance and Wabuck Development staff have been working on the job description for the position of resident site manager. It should be reviewed at the Administrative Support Committee and, hopefully, recommended for Board approval.

Horizon Place. Horizon Place, a property for seniors adjacent to The Learning Villa, is under construction. It is anticipated that completion of that project will occur in mid-spring 2009.

Currently, there are fourteen (14) people on the waiting list for that project. Staff do not anticipate any problem renting that complex.

Lincolnshire/Lincolnshire North —Update. Ms. Boling said that currently there are thirteen (13) vacancies (out of 208 units) at the two Lincolnshire properties. Ms. Boling said that she is currently working on a bid notice and “specs” to replace roofing at the complexes. The majority of the roofs have at least three layers of roofing and she said that she figures this is going to be a costly proposition.

Weatherization Assistance Program. Ms. Boling advised that the Weatherization program recently received an additional \$224,000+ bringing the program’s total funding to \$545,515. Presently, AACS is contracted to complete ninety (90) jobs for this fiscal year. The agency must submit its new budget proposal as to how it plans to serve additional clients and expend the grant sums now available. Ms. Boling reviewed her plan and budget with the Committee. She stated that in addition to the expanded services the program will be providing that she is proposing to purchase a new vehicle and a new insulation blowing machine.

Since the majority of weatherization dollars are tied into specific service jobs, she said that she anticipated not being able to expend all the funding available, particularly in view of the late receipt of this augmentation. So, some of the \$545,515 will likely have to be returned to the State at the end of the FY2009 fiscal year.

Ms. Boling said that AACS was now much in need of new and additional Weatherization applications. As of right now, the agency has on file only twenty-four (24) applications awaiting home weatherization services. She urged everyone to please advise potentially eligible clients about the AACS Weatherization Assistance program so that she will have plenty of applications on file to provide additional services with the new greatly increased funding.

Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Hart moved to recommend Board approval of this substantial FY2009 Weatherization contract augmentation and Ms. Boling’s proposed usage of the expanded resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hatfield asked if anyone had more business and everyone said no.

There being no further business,

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Mr. Marshall Hatfield
Chairman