

Community Services Committee Meeting
Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.
MINUTES

January 19, 2010

The Community Services Committee met at 12:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in the Senior Service Corps Conference Room in the Elizabeth Munday Senior Center in Owensboro.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Nelda Barnett
Rev. David Combs

Mr. M. Douglas Smith

Ms. Charlotte Vandgrift

Staff Present:

Mr. Ron Logsdon, Executive Director, AACS, Inc.
Ms. Robyn Mattingly, Senior Service Corps Director
Ms. Cathy Spires, Counseling Services Director
Ms. Shirley Spalding, Office Manager, Senior Service Corps, AACS, Inc.

Guest Present: Ms. Alita Wilson-Smith

Rev. David S. Combs called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. After introductions, lunch was served.

NEW BUSINESS & COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

Counseling Services. The Committee heard reports from Ms. Spires on relevant current issues within the Counseling Services Department and its programs.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) — Crisis Component Update. Ms. Spires reported that, to-date, FY2010 LIHEAP Crisis applications were down slightly. Applications received January 4-18, 2010, total 1,473 with \$306,218 expended. By comparison, applications received January 5-18, 2009, total 1,651 with \$317,124.57 expended.

Owensboro Regional Recovery (ORR) Implementation and Startup. Furniture has been received, she said, as well as several other donations. The ORR director, Sarah Adkins, is in place. In addition, there are six peer mentors and various other staff now on the job. The Kelly Foundation's "Recovery Dynamics" training, a *Recovery Kentucky* requirement, has been completed; classes will be taught at the ORR center.

The next Committee meeting will be held at ORR which is located at 4301 Veach Road, Owensboro. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for the end of March, said Ms. Spires.

Family Preservation Program (FPP)/Family Reunification Program (FRP) Update. Ms. Spires noted this period right after the holiday season was a very busy time for her staff. Given the state's reported dire financial straits, Ms. Spires also expressed concern about a *possible* 6-8% budget cut from the Commonwealth of Kentucky during the second half of the current fiscal year.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Work Plan Revision/Request. Ms. Spires said she was awaiting notification from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Families to begin a new ARRA-funded program in McLean County in collaboration with the Family Y of Owensboro. The program would provide

supervision for students when school is not in session and after school. The program, if approved, would run through September, 2010, she said.

VISTA Update — Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Activities. Currently the AACS VISTA program has four participating members, reported Ms. Spires. A current VISTA member appeared on the Jerry Birge Show promoting the program and the non-perishable food drive held in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The food collected was to be delivered to local food pantries and the Help Office in Owensboro.

Ms. Mattingly also appeared on the show and commented RSVP staff and members were assisting the Owensboro Human Relations Commission after the annual “MLK” Day Walk at a local college. She commented that the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions would be donating non-perishable items at their January inservice meeting. Those items will be delivered to the Henderson Community Christian Outreach Food Bank in Henderson and the Owensboro Christian Church Food Pantry in Owensboro.

New 1800 West Fourth Street Office Needs and Concerns. Ms. Spires will submit a request to the Cabinet for Health and Families for CSBG’s \$115,000 carry-over from 2009. Among other things, she said she would request to upgrade her office’s computer equipment. Plus, she wanted to “enhance security” in that office complex.

Free Tax Filing Services. Ms. Spires advised that the 1800 West Fourth Street office would again be the location of a free community-wide income tax filing services. That service will be offered on given Thursdays.

Senior Service Corps.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)/Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)/Senior Companion Program (SCP) 2010 Notices of Grant Award. Ms. Mattingly announced that 2010 funding for all three Senior Service Corps programs had been approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). She said that she was anticipating a small increase for all three programs, but she had not been notified of the actual increase.

FGP/RSVP/SCP — Program Updates. Ms. Mattingly commented that year-end reports are being completed for submission to the CNCS State Office by the end of January. All three programs have met their 2009 projections on services to be delivered, she said.

RSVP Re-competition Process. Ms. Mattingly reported that in 2013 RSVP would be involved in a recompetition process that allowed *any* non-profit entity to bid for this area RSVP funding from CNCS. In the past, the Audubon Area RSVP has received many awards, and it is fiscally sound, she advised.

In preparation for the recompetition process, a national team will review the local program’s most recent RSVP assessment, which was conducted in 2006. In addition, the AACS *advisory council’s* role — this Community Services Committee serves in that role, and the second reviewer’s comments from the most recent three-year renewal will be included in that review.

To assist in that review process, the CNCS team has developed a *Draft #4* “Stakeholder Assessment” that is subject to review in the *Federal Register*. This is open to public comment through March 15, 2010, she advised. The final draft of the Stakeholder Assessment should then be available in May 2010, at which time the *advisory council* (Community Services Committee) will complete the form for submission. She strongly encouraged Committee members’ participation in both the comment and RSVP review process.

Chairman Combs recommended setting aside time on the agenda at the next meeting for questions and comments regarding the Draft #4 Stakeholders Assessment. He also requested another copy of the form be included with the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

2010 Committee Meetings. The schedule of meetings for the Community Services Committee is listed below. The Committee will meet in the Senior Service Corps Conference Room in the Elizabeth Munday Senior Center at noon unless otherwise noted.

March 16 – <i>Meeting to be held at ORR</i>	July 20, 2010	November 16, 2010
May 18, 2010	September 21	

Electronic Transmittal of Committee Notices and Files. Chairman Combs requested all email attachments regarding Committee business be sent in either .pdf form or .jpeg form in the future to accommodate members' computer capabilities.

Co-General Partner Concerns: *ORR Liability.* Mr. Logsdon learned at the last Lighthouse Recovery Services, Inc. Board meeting that board member expressed concerns about liability issues related to Owensboro Regional Recovery (ORR). Lighthouse is AACS' co-general partner in ORR. Mr. Logsdon said he checked with AACS' counsel concerning the matter and got his opinion that, within the context of a prudent exercise of their governance responsibilities and personal conduct as members, there was little reason to be concerned about *personal* liability. Mr. Logsdon also confirmed that AACS does have its liability insurance policy in place. Mr. Logsdon said that after consulting with Lighthouse's attorney as well he would report his "findings" to AACS and Lighthouse board members.

Mr. Logsdon said he was also aware of some Lighthouse concerns about Audubon's fiscal agent/housing management roles at ORR. He will attempt to address those concerns at the next Committee meeting, which will, hopefully, be held jointly with the Lighthouse Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Nelda Barnett moved, Doug Smith seconded and Rev. Combs adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Rev. David S. Combs
Committee Chair