

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
2nd CDBG CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 14, 2020, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
Third Floor Conference Room, Lewiston City Building

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Roll Call:** The meeting was started at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Pauline Gudas, Sue Charron, David Nielsen, Jr., Ashley Medina, Safiya Khalid and Abdikadir Negeye

**Member Absent:** Scott McClelland

**Staff Present:** Lincoln Jeffers, Jayne Jochem, Melissa Lavallee, Heidi McCarthy and Cathy Lekberg

**1) Introductions**

**2) Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

The following motion was made:

**MOTION:** by **David Nielsen, Jr.** to keep the same Chair, Pauline Gudas and Vice Chair, David Nielsen, Jr. as was voted at the Consolidated Plan meetings.  
Second by **Sue Charron.**

**VOTED: 6-0 (Passed)**

**3) Discussion on CDBG process**

Lincoln updated the members about the discussions at the Consolidated Plan meetings held last year and said that Jayne held three separate mandatory training sessions in which each agency would need to attend one of them. He explained the committee decided to put a minimum ask of \$5,000 and there would be no maximum for their requests. There was one agency that did not qualify for funding and that was An Angel's Wing. He also mentioned that Central Maine Health Corp. was the only agency that submitted programs for fair housing.

**4) Agency Interviews**

**Lewiston Adult Education – Integrated Skill Based Work Readiness Training –**  
Jennifer Tiner, Assistant Director presenting

Jennifer stated that this program serves adults 16 years and older who are looking to continue their education and to work on their own personal development. They serve a large number of people in the community with their Integrated Skill Based Work Readiness training and it supports the CDBG goal to grow educational outcomes for low income individuals and families. They support low income adults on the path to self-sufficiency through education and skill development. They focus on basic academic skill

building (reading and math), workplace vocabulary, culture of work, career pathways, job coaching and job search support. They also refer some to community partners as needed. They have one on one sessions with individuals to determine their next steps either to seek employment or continue their education. Sue asked if they had to tweak their program because of the new Consolidated Plan and Jennifer said their goal is an educational piece and supports the Consolidated Plan. Safiya asked about outreach and Jennifer said they take referrals from other agencies. Pauline and Ashley both said that this is a great program and they do an amazing job.

**Literacy Volunteers – Workplace Literacy English Conversation Classes** – Tahlia Chamberlain, Executive Director presenting

Tahlia said she has been working at this agency for 24 years. The program mostly has students working on their goals with a one on one tutor in private rooms in public places, for example, libraries and churches. Sometimes if asked, they will create a classroom when needed and requested by community partners in adult education. The proposal for this year is to hold classes at the Center for Women’s Wisdom where the potential students are in an environment that they consider safe and accessible. Many of these women are well educated but do not have the English speaking skills they need to obtain a decent job. River Valley Village is another place where there are at least 20 women that would like a class like this. The majority are single moms with no childcare or transportation and the bus service does not coincide with their children’s school schedule. These women want to improve their English in order to increase chances of getting a job and increasing their independence. QuickBooks is another training they would like to have. Maine needs skilled people so this is very important. Safiya asked if they serve at Hillview too and Tahlia said yes, all over the community and they also get referrals from many agencies. Abdi asked about ages and Tahlia said they serve 18 years and older and that a volunteer has to be at least 21 years old. They they have about 100 volunteers. She said when they help the adults to read, then they can help their children.

**New Beginnings – Homeless Youth Educational Support Program** – Rachel Spencer-Reed, Director of Development and Community Services and Allison Smith, Education Program Manager presenting

Rachel said New Beginnings has been around for 40 years and based in Lewiston. They serve runaway young adults trying to survive on their own. They have an emergency shelter for teens where they help support educational needs and keep them connected to education. They serve approximately 500 – 600 kids a year and strive to keep the them in school. Allison said that kids need to get at least a high school diploma or they are likely to be homeless as adults. They have a referral process with high schools for students and they work with them on the barriers to keep them in school. They work with the kids to build trust and self-belief and work to find the best path for them to go. Safiya said they do an extraordinary job and asked if they push for students to continue college educations and Allison said they try to maintain youth that are attending classes and keep them on the path of education. Safiya asked if they have a 24 hour emergency

shelter and Allison said they do in Portland and Bangor but do not have one in Lewiston. Sue asked about the immigrant population and Rachel said it fluctuates from year to year.

**Tedford Housing – Lewiston Supportive Housing Services** – Rota Knott, Executive Director and Giff Jamison, Director of Operations presenting

Rota said Tedford Housing has been providing emergency shelters for homeless families for 30 years. They have these shelters in Lewiston, Auburn, Brunswick and Bath. Giff said between 2007 and 2008, the LAASH committee did a study to look at homelessness in Lewiston/Auburn area. A ten unit apartment building was renovated on the corner of Pine and Blake Streets and a six unit building was renovated in Auburn. He said that people experiencing homelessness are living on couches and floors of relatives, in their cars and in several shelters downtown. They provide services to keep them in their homes so they do not go back to homelessness. They have one case manager in the building to provide services and provides assistance in getting health benefits and becoming employed. They receive referrals from many organizations such as Tri-County Mental Health, Common Ties and Safe Voices. While staying at the Blake Street Apartments, people prepare for the next step, possibly to move on to a different place. Pauline asked if the case manager reside in the building and Giff said no. Lincoln asked how long do they stay and Giff said about two years.

**Trinity Jubilee Center – Day Shelter & Resource Center** – Erin Reed Executive Director presenting

Erin said there is a real need for a daytime shelter in Lewiston. People have nowhere to go during the day. They are usually on the streets all night and need a place to come and wash up and have a hot meal. Their hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She said that 35% of homeless people have children, 20% have mental illnesses and some are just getting released from jail. Some do have jobs and some are looking for work. The resource center is a place that gives these people stability so they can address their barriers. They also offer case management, a free health clinic which screens about 18 people a month, access to telephones, faxes and the internet. They get many referrals and work with people on a one on one basis to find jobs. They help with resumes and applying for MaineCare and help with many other resources. Erin gave examples of some of the people they have served.

**Trinity Jubilee Center – Food Pantry** – Erin Reed, Executive Director presenting

Erin said they prepare meals in their soup kitchen and service about 200 families a week. The hours of operation are 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The food pantry strives to give out fresh nutritious produce and groceries and easily prepared meals to cook at home. The food pantry also has a diaper bank which gives out 4,000 diapers a month to families in need. She gave examples of some people they have assisted.

**5) Review and approval of November 19, 2019 and November 22, 2019 CAC Consolidated Plan meeting minutes.**

The minutes from the November 19, 2019 and November 22, 2019 CAC Consolidated Plan Meetings will be approved at the February 21, 2020 meeting.

**6) Any other business members may have relating to the duties of the CDBG Committee. None**

**7) Adjournment**

The following motion was made:

**MOTION:** by **Sue Charron** to adjourn meeting at 11:05 p.m. Second by **Safiya Khalid**

**VOTED:** **6-0 (Passed)**