

## MB HAVEN

### MINUTES – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

1. Call to Order: Shelley Licata called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Attendance: Kim Monnie was absent.
3. Minutes: August minutes were approved unanimously
4. Miscellaneous Overview:
  - a. Rae Packard is no longer with FSA. We don't know her replacement yet. FSA has stopped allowing us to give out bus passes at their location. Passes will be given to agencies that get no funding for transportation for their clients. Medi-Cal clients can buy their own.
  - b. There were 15 applicants for Project Hope housing placement. Only two of them needed to see a therapist, so the day went smoothly. There has been no feedback yet as to the results. Deanna will look into it. Housing is available in Yucca Valley.
  - c. River Don's Yucca Valley location has been closed. There is a new location, but the building has a lot of needs, such as electricity, water (tanks are empty and plumbing connections are unfinished, and mobility access.
  - d. Panorama Ranch is for sale at \$250,000 plus a note for the land, \$700,000. Deanna will check to see if the County owns the property.
  - e. TAY has received a grant for housing for ages 18-25. The program is called Molding Hearts. Clients may live there as long as they want to, as long as their behavior is appropriate. They sign up as Drop-In clients.
5. Unity Home:

Susanna has been with Unity Home for 17 years. It started in 1982 in Twentynine Palms. Wayne Hamilton is president of the Board, which has just acquired 5 new board members and will be joined by a former client, bringing the board to 11 members of the possible 15. There is no cost to be on the board. Its main responsibility is creating fund-raising activities.

Services include a shelter for women and children, but assistance is available for men, too. All services are free and confidential, so there is no opportunity for ridicule in the community. There is no judgment and no one is turned away.

Susanna has been conducting a Healthy Relationships class at high schools and has just started doing the same at the Boys and Girls Club. There is a great need to reach students in junior high school, where a lot of verbal abuse begins, such as name-calling and put-downs. These classes have been well-received and a licensed MFSW is interested in becoming involved. Examples of behaviors that young people do not realize are illegal are: blocking an exit and taking away a cell phone.

Four times a year, at Helen Grey, Susanna conducts free domestic violence training, mainly for professionals, who can use it for continuing education credit. It is 5 weeks for 4 hours a night. Some volunteers are accepted if there is space. If interested call her at 760-366-8835.

5. Unity Home (continued)

The home location is confidential. Everyone connected to the shelter and all clients sign a confidentiality agreement. The Shelter has 30 beds. Clients can stay for up to 90 days, until they are safe or relocated. They may stay longer if needed. There are rules to follow, classes in life skills and how to get back on their feet. Education is provided for both parents and children. Clients are required to volunteer in the community.

There is a Domestic Abuse Response Team that goes out on calls with a Deputy to act as neutral persons who offer comfort and help to diffuse the situation. The 24-hour hotline is 760-366-9663.

6. New Business

- a. Web Site: Shelley asked everyone to look at the web site and send comments to her. Sarann noted that the site was originally designed to connect directly to agencies by clicking on an agency's name. Now it will have links labeled by the type of service. Clicking on a link will take you to the web site of the agency(s) that provides that service. We need a link for Project H.O.P.E. It was suggested that we have a booth at H.O.P.E's event on Oct. 12. There could be flyers for MB Haven and other agencies.

A Pay Pal Account is being set up. A suggestion was made to have a section that is a "Wish List" for items that MB Haven needs.

- b. Hygiene Kits: Clients can pick them up at Ambiance Salon. They can even be seen on Monday, when the salon is closed, in preparation for a job interview, etc. The Salon does not want to have a link on the web site.
- c. Pacific Clinics now also serves military families and veterans.
- d. The San Bernardino County Homeless Provider Guide has been added to the web site.
- e. A treasury report will be part of the agenda starting at the next meeting.
- f. James will do the paper work to enable us to participate in the 211 telephone service.
- g. A suggestion was made to use social media, such as Indigogogo, which would post MB Haven and allow anyone to send money to us (crowd-funding).
- h. At the next meeting we will discuss whether we should continue to open a building or be a virtual program only.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

8. Next meeting: October 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. in Supervisor Ramos's office, Joshua Tree

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Lyte