

FAMILY SELECTION TEAM Minutes

May 15, 2017 Meeting

Present: Barbara Burr, Patricia Duggan, Betsy Mighton, Flo Knopf, Pam Murphy, Deb Snyder, Jane Cannito, Nina Wright, Joan Spilman. Also present: John Kordrupel, Habitat Buffalo new Family Services Manager (204-0740 ex 108, jkordrupel@habitatbuffalo.org) and Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director

John introduced himself and discussed his role and the status of Habitat Programs:

- He was an AmeriCorps member with Habitat/Buffalo about 5 years ago
- He will be attending Family Selection meetings every other month, alternating with Family Support meetings.
- His role as Family Services Manager is to coordinate all activities involving families, from application through selection, ongoing support, and move in. This will also include the responsibility for pairing families with houses timely and successfully.

Teresa discussed the status of Habitat programs and future activities:

- Four new positions were created and candidates hired; all had been performed by volunteers up to this point:
 - Controller—Matt Overfield
 - Volunteer Coordinator—Angela Watson
 - Family Services Manager—John Kordrupel
 - Development and Communications—Stephanie Lawson
- After the end of May, there will be no rehabs left to worked on. She has reached out to the community for leads on properties that could be donated to Habitat. She has talked to Judge Carney, WNYLC, Banks, Mickey Kearns, Consumer Credit Counseling, and the City of Buffalo. She is looking for any way that we can obtain affordable houses to rehab.
- There will be more development on the Wende Street area over the next few years, and more activity being planned by that community to make it safe and create interest in living there, including a street party on Saturday June 24 from 11 AM to 3 PM.
- The result of this is a list of 28 families eligible to be assigned a home, but limited homes available currently. Discussed advisability of closing the waiting list and other options. No determination made.
- Lots of changes due to implementation of Dodd-Frank Legislation:
 - Habitat/Buffalo will be enforcing new foreclosure policies. After two months of nonpayment of rent Habitat will begin intervention. Habitat will work with families, but if results are unsuccessful, to avoid bringing a foreclosure and incurring the cost, Habitat will offer to provide the family rent support for 3 months in exchange for the family moving out voluntarily.
 - New regulations regarding determining credit viability and loan origination require that a 12-hour qualifying course be taken by anyone who takes on this role. Nina, Sue, John, and Theresa will take the course. This new regulation creates questions about the role of Family Support members. It appears that members will not be able to discuss finances, credit, or other financial matters with applicants in the future. Teresa encouraged the committee to discuss what the Family Support Committee could do once these regulations are in place. She encouraged everyone to think of new roles we could take, and then email her and each other so that everyone can see and comment.

No corrections to the Minutes

Committee update

a) 55 requests for applications in April (in 2016 there were 56)

b) Families who accepted houses: Hissu, Awal and Muhe, Gische accepted 42 Wende St; –reached 150 hours this month, were accepted 9/21/15; Mutuyimana, Theogene and Kampire, Beata accepted 56 Wende St-- they were accepted in January of 2017 and reached 150 hours this month

c) Education hours update – Nina proposed cap of 50 hours before 150 hours are reached for report cards and an additional 50 hours after the 150 hours are reached. All in agreement with this.

Hours in the education column are for education hours, not report card hours; the hours Aaron Torres received for his 40-hour construction class will be 1 hour in the education column, not part of the 150 hours necessary to qualify for the housing list (5 hours are given for a 3-hour course for college credit but those hours require outside study).

Consultants need to contact the family when the limit is reached for Restore or education hours;

d) Family updates

Iskenderun family reached 150 family hours turned over to Family Support but income will have to be higher before they will be put on the wait list;

Afiya Rice's (Betsy) file has been turned over to Family Support – still waiting for employment verification; Betsy received update on marital status

Asha Brown (Barbara) reached 150 hours in April and her file has been turned over to Family Support

Shalita Rivera – (Betsy) need a copy of her birth certificate and other documents.

Michell lang — Patricia will call her about need for copy of her citizenship papers (we have the copy of husband's green card)

Initial interview assignments

Muse, Hibo and Yakub, Abdi – Jane and Patricia

Fakhrudin, Munaay and Walizai, Zabihullah (fiance') – co-applicants need to understand that they need to reside in the Habitat house; co-applicant needs to sign application; in order to establish a debt to income percentage we need to know how much rent Walizai is paying – we only have the rent that Fakhrudin is paying; should Fakhrudin establish her own line of credit? - why are there so many credit card payments – shouldn't he close some of them out? –Barbara and Bruce

3. Initial interview reports

Favors, Ashley – Flo/Betsy – verifications received; accepted 5/9/17. Acceptance interview scheduled.

Bashirahishize, Renovat and Ntibatwenge, Scholastique – Deb/Pam- _projected salary from two current jobs is sufficient (part time job started in December); wife has applied for green card; once she gets that she can be put on as co-applicant; credit report received – still waiting for employer verification from second job. Pam will call.

4. Acceptance interview reports

Rivera, Shalita – Betsy - veteran; employment verification received; accepted 2/22/17 and Acceptance Interview completed; needs to send 2016 W-2, 1040, and Birth Certificate to Habitat office

Etienne, William and Montesino, Niurvis – Pam/Deb – employment verification received; accepted 3/2/17; needs to send copy of 2016 W-2 and 1040 to Habitat office

5. Sweat equity follow-ups (Hours report as of 5/1/17)

December/January – Holt, Makeda – Peg - has done 7 hours since last March, 3 hours in December –Warning Letter sent 5/9/17

March – Jones, Natalie – Betsy – 10 hours this month

April – Everett, Taniqua – no hours since January – Flo has been trying to contact, but no response--send Warning Letter

May – Davis, Sasiya – Flo – 2 months no hours; Abdi, Omar –3 months no hours—told Patricia that his wife had contacted the Office; Elliott, Eisha – 3 months no hours--Betsy will call; Bunton, Tiara – Patricia has called-- over 3 months - she needs to contact Alyssa about her hours.

6. Calendar/New Business

The next meeting will be Monday June 19, 2017 – 6 pm at Cleveland Heights Christian Church