Minutes Community Development Citizens' Committee (CDCC) February 7, 2007 - Hunt Branch Library

Call to Order

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenna Axe

Robert Elliott Simon Karmarkar Jay Kremer Kay Miller

Dorothy Ruhnke Jesus Silva

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark McGee

STAFF PRESENT: Linda R. Morad, Housing Programs Supervisor

Kim Husereau, Clerical Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Member Elliott to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2007 as amended with typographical correction requested by Chairman Miller: Page 5, paragraph 1 "organization did appear" replaced with "organization did not appear". The MOTION was SECONDED by Member Kremer and CARRIED unanimously to approve the Minutes as amended.

II. 2007-2008 NON-PROFIT PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Morad advised the non-profit agencies that their presentations should be limited to five minutes, followed by a five-minute question and answer period. She explained that the time allowed for questions may be extended at the discretion of the Committee. Ms. Morad provided an overview of the 2007-08 CDBG allocation, stating that although HUD had not yet provided a final budget, a cut could be anticipated and there was a very small carry over of unused funds from last year. She suggested that the presenters be as specific as possible regarding how their organizations propose to utilize a CDBG grant due to the limited funding available this year.

Presentations began at 6:35 P.M.

APPLICANT: Boys and Girls Club of Fullerton
PROJECT: Fullerton After-School Program
PRESENTERS: Fred Johnson, Executive Director

Chris Olson, Grant Writer

Mr. Johnson began by thanking the Committee for the funds granted last year to replace the Richman Branch Roof, provide Valencia Branch salaries and fund the Commonwealth New Windows Project. He explained that due to pending Civic Center study that would affect the Commonwealth Main Branch, the New Windows Project has been placed on hold and no building improvement projects are being submitted. Mr. Johnson stated that the funds being requested would be utilized to provide salaries for the after-school programs at four sites. Staffing at these sites run the computer labs and provide assistance with homework and tutoring of youth after school. Mr. Johnson explained that additional computers were available to be installed at the sites, but could not be put in place until there is sufficient staff on hand to monitor usage.

Q: There are computer resources available through the Fullerton School District. Would it be beneficial to work with them to help you set up your computer labs?

A: The labs and equipment are in place, we need to provide the staff to manage them.

Q: Will these funds be used to manage new sites or to extend hours at existing locations?

A: This will provide the staff to keep the labs open and potentially extend the hours.

Q: How many boys and girls attend the after school programs?

A: Daily attendance is approximately: Commonwealth Branch - 140

Richman Branch - 110 Valencia Branch - 125

Commonwealth School Site - 100

- Q: Please define what a "non-member" is as reflected in your application?
- A: Youth that are visiting may attend for two days before becoming a member. Then an application must be filled out for insurance purposes.
- Q: How is the program affected by the 21st Century No Kid Left Behind Grant?
- A: We are now transitioning to Proposition 49, which requires a one-to-twenty ratio, with additional staff required at school and park locations. Thus, during the past year we have added two additional staff members at each of the sites at Commonwealth School and the Valencia Park Branch.
- Q: Is this a multi-year project?
- A: Yes, this is an on-going program. However, the 2008-09 Budget has not yet been developed. The program has been in place for approximately six years, but funding is redetermined each year.

- Q: What is the reason for anticipating that fundraising will be down this year?
- A: Our most recent fundraising events have not met anticipated goals. Therefore, based on this trend, we anticipate a lower overall rate of contribution this year.

APPLICATION: Council on Aging – Orange County

PROJECT: Long Term Ombudsman

PRESENTER: David Owen, Volunteer Ombudsman

Mr. Owen described the visitation program in which volunteer Ombudsmen function as advocates for patients in long term care facilities. He stated that there are 51 facilities served in Fullerton, which contain 2,750 beds. Each location is visited at least once monthly and skilled nursing facilities are visited two or three times per month.

Q: What type of mediation does the Ombudsman carry out?

A: In most cases it becomes necessary to advocate for a patient/resident between facility staff and family members in order to insure that their wishes are carried out.

Q: Does the State or County provide a similar service?

A: Community Care Licensing responds to complaints, but does not make regular visits.

Q: What training does an Ombudsman undergo?

A: Typically a minimum of two weeks on-the-job training is provided by an experienced Ombudsman in the field. This is followed with certification by the State, which is updated annually. Monthly training is on-going.

^{**}Member Ruhnke arrived at this time.**

APPLICATION: Crittenton Services for Children & Families
PROJECT: Exterior Security Lighting –Valley View Campus

PRESENTER: Joyce Capelle - Director

Ms. Capelle explained that this request was submitted last year and did not receive funding. She described the campus setting as very poorly lit at night, which presents security issues for staff and residents, including lack of visibility to residents leaving without permission. She added that the vacant lot adjoining the campus is now proposed for development as single family homes, which may pose additional security concerns for neighbors along that fence line. The campus houses up to sixty girls with mental health issues, ages 12 to 18 years that are placed by the courts. Many residents are pregnant and may have babies or toddlers. All residents qualify as Fullerton residents at the ultra low income level.

Q: Will the proposed lighting interfere with the neighbors?

A: No. The light spillage has been reviewed by the City's Planning Department and approved.

Q: Does Davis Bacon apply to this project?

A: Yes. A bid has been obtained from a contractor that will address prevailing wage requirements and can comply with the documentation mandated by Davis Bacon.

APPLICATION: Family Assessment, Counseling & Education Services

(F.A.C.E.S.)

PROJECT: Family Preservation Program
PRESENTERS: Mary O'Connor, Founder-Director
Caroline Estrada, Program Director

Ms. O'Connor reviewed program highlights summarized in a Power Point presentation to the Committee. She added that the program stresses outreach to single parent families in crisis, including counseling, educational services and monitored visits. Throughout Orange County 1700 families are served, 295 in Fullerton. Approximately 90% of the counselors are volunteer Counselors-in-Training working on their clinical degrees.

Q: Your CDBG application indicates that you do not anticipate contributions this year from several organizations that have previously contributed. Why?

A: 52 grants have been requested, but it is too early to confirm most as "solid" contributions.

APPLICATION: Fullerton Civic Light Opera (FCLO)

PROJECT: Fullerton School District Educational Outreach

PRESENTER: Griff Duncan, General Manager

Mr. Duncan reviewed the program goals to bring under-served and low income individuals that might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend a stage performance to see FCLO events. He explained that the Civic Light Opera ticket sales provide only 65% of the revenue needed to produce the season; the remaining funds must be derived from other sources. In addition to stage performances at the Plummer Auditorium there is an active program traveling to school sites designated by the School District as low income, which brings actors to the students for assembly performances.

- Q: Your application reflects costs for costumes and scenery construction that would be used in the performances identified for the under-privileged and low income audience. Will they also be used for other performances offered to the paying public?
- A: Yes. But, the budget indicated reflects a percentage of cost allocated only to the specified performances in the Outreach program.

Q: What is the value of one ticket?

A: The cost ranges from \$25 to \$52. The most typical seats cost \$31.

Q: What does it cost to put on a 30-Minute assembly performance at the school sites?

A: The actors are paid \$75 each. Most performances run \$300.

Ms. Morad cautioned the Committee that persons identified as disadvantaged do not automatically qualify within the CDBG guidelines. CDBG criteria specifically requires funds to be used for low income recipients.

Q: What school sites are currently receiving the assembly performances?

A: The Fullerton School District determines what schools will be visited. The schools recently involved were Richman, Maple and Woodcrest.

APPLICATION: Fair Housing Council of Orange County

PROJECT: Fullerton Fair Housing, Education, Counseling & Enforcement

PRESENTER: David Levy, Director of Development

Mr. Levy briefly summarized the services provided to the Fullerton community. He projected that the service demand rate for Fullerton over the next year will be 5.22%, which is the figure utilized to derive the fair share of cost to provide on-going services. The forecast calls for approximately 660 households to be assisted with 680 requests for service pertaining to landlord-tenant counseling matters.

Q: Do other cities in the County contribute?

A: Yes. All jurisdictions contribute based upon the "fair share of cost" methodology. The base line period for the cost projections lags behind because it is taken from statistics on case work already provided.

Q: Does your service provide mediation services?

A: A separate mediation program funded by the courts is available, for which an internal referral can be made. However, the majority of landlord-tenant cases are handled via a self-help process.

APPLICATION: Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services (F.I.E.S.)

PROJECT: Interfaith Shelter Network (ISN)
PRESENTER: Judith Bambas, Executive Director

Ms. Bambas described the Interfaith Shelter Network program that operates year-round on a rotation on two week intervals through twenty host congregations throughout Fullerton. Meal preparation and assembly of the temporary sleeping quarters is provided by volunteers. The facilities host 12 homeless single employable adults. The participants are required to obtain employment during the first 30 days and save 80% of their adjusted income while they are in the program. Participants may remain in the program up to four months. In addition to food and shelter the participants receive case management services, counseling and life skills classes.

Q: How do the participants get to their jobs?

A: Bus passes are provided.

Q: How do eligible homeless individuals find out about the ISN program?

A: Informational cards/brochures are printed in Spanish and English are handed out by members of congregations throughout Fullerton, as well as other local organizations and the Police Department.

Q: Are any health related services provided?

A: The mobile health van is available and services can also be obtained at the new Saint Jude Medical Clinic located at Richman Park.

Q: What number of participants successfully leave this program and become self-sufficient?

A: Approximately 80%. Subsequent to "graduation" from the ISN program, other F.I.E.S. services remain available to help the individuals continue to be independent; such as assistance with rent or utility bills.

APPLICATION: Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services (F.I.E.S.)

PROJECT: New Vista Life Skills

PRESENTER: Judith Bambas, Executive Director

Ms. Bambas provided an overview of the New Vista Life Skills training program that takes place at the New Vista Transitional Living Center, which offers housing for homeless families with dependent children. The Life Skills classes are critical to the success of the program itself and provide information about money management and budgeting, parenting and nutrition.

Q: What are the requirements of families participating in this program?

A: Families may remain at the center for three to four months, obtain employment within 30 days and save 80% of their adjusted income. Each family is assigned a Case Manager and attendance in the Life Skills classes is mandatory.

Q: Is there a waiting list?

A: A waiting list is not maintained, families are taken on a first-come-first-served basis as space becomes available.

APPLICATION: Legal Aid Society of Orange County PROJECT: Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach

No representative of the Legal Aid Society was present.

APPLICATION: Meals on Wheels of Fullerton, Inc.

PROJECT: Maintenance of Meals and Supportive Services

PRESENTER: Sandra White, Volunteer President

Ms. White stated that the goal of the Meals on Wheels program is to allow homebound individuals to remain in their own homes as long as possible. Last year 275 volunteers delivered 45,000 meals. Currently 98 clients receive services in Fullerton and there are 31 persons on the waiting list. The established routes initially supported 84 clients, but have been extended to maximum capacity in order to meet increasing demand. The majority of the recipients are low income seniors, but the program is not age or income restricted.

Q: How much does a typical meal cost?

A: Each day two meals are provided. Meals prepared at Morningside cost \$4.50 and those prepared at Saint Jude cost approximately \$3.90. Saint Jude is able to prepare meals that address special dietary needs; such as cardiac or diabetic menus.

Q: How do you find volunteers?

A: The National Charity League is a reliable source of volunteers. Also advertisement in the "Focus on Fullerton" newsletter distributed with local water bills generates a volume of volunteers each time it is published.

Q: Are meals delivered every day?

A: Meals are delivered five days per week, Monday through Friday and special service on holidays such as Thanksqiving and Christmas Day.

APPLICATION: Southern California College of Optometry

PROJECT: Futures in Sight

PRESENTER: Beverly Spencer, Director of External Clinics

Ms. Spencer explained that the College itself is well endowed for educational programs, however, each of the clinic programs are separately funded. The Futures in Sight proposal is to provide vision care for populations that are uninsured and under-served. In the past Futures in Sight has directly served only children, but is now being expanded to include adult referrals as well as the parents and grandparents of the children referred to this program. This year services are provided at the Yorba Linda Boulevard site as well as the new Saint Jude Clinic site located at Richman Park.

Q: Do you require that recipients are referred or do you accept eligible walk-in patients?

A: A referral is not necessary. Advertisements are run in local papers and web sites to help educate the public about this program.

APPLICATION: Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC)

PROJECT: Independence from Dependence

PRESENTER: Kathy Strong, Director of Contracts Administration

Ms. Strong provided a detailed overview of the emergency shelter operation, noting that it is the only program in Orange County accepting victims of domestic violence with active substance abuse and/or mental health problems, boys over the age of 13 years, undocumented clients and victims of human trafficking. The request for \$10,000 will be utilized to fund a Child Care Advocate and a Case Manager/Client Advocate, both of whom are bi-lingual. Ms. Strong stated that 70% of the participants with substance abuse issues remain in the program for the entire 90 days offered. In the transitional shelter program, 100% of the clients assisted in the last two years have moved on to permanent housing or to an in-patient shelter program. Job placement assistance is provided as well as ESL and advanced English courses. In addition, Bryman Schools offers a collaborative program in which 100% of school fees are paid and job placement assistance is provided upon graduation.

Q: Do you require that participants take English courses?

A: Yes, because it will enable them to obtain better jobs.

Q: To what do you attribute the high success rate of the program?

A: Primarily to the impact of highly individualized attention and personalized counseling. Assessments are on-going and the program is flexible to meet individual needs rather than take a communal approach as in many other shelter programs.

APPLICATION: YMCA of Orange County, North Orange County Branch

PROJECT: Richman Center Youth Achievers PRESENTERS: Jim Lapak, Executive Director

Tawnya Moore, Staff Amparo Herrera, Staff

Mr. Lapak introduced the Richman Center program that has grown from its inception approximately seven years ago. Although the program serves youth directly, parents are also involved in a related parent group. Thus, approximately 70 families are now served out of the Richman Center. The program is offered five days per week for three hours each afternoon and features assistance with homework and reading, community service projects, character-building activities and field trips. In addition, a one-week off-site camp program will be offered this summer for 40 youth.

- Q: What ages of youth are served?
- A: Children ages Kindergarten through Grade Six.
- Q: Is there potential to collaborate with the after school program offered by the Boys and Girls Club?
- A: There are occasions in which the two programs work together for special events. However, this program is based upon referrals from local schools and is not a drop-in center. There is no duplication in service as both programs are currently at capacity.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Member Silva MOVED to adjourn, SECONDED by Member Karmarkar. Chairperson Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBI	MITTED,
CLERICAL SUPPORT	111