

Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)
Presentations I
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 201
July 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman William B. Merrill, Walter Afable, Mark Benson, Gail Bien, Alison Fraunhar, Glynn Gervais and Beverly Graham

Absent: C. Jackson Darnall and Kevin Hooper

Staff: Janis Akerstrom (Village CDCAC Liaison) and Mark Dwyer

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and invited the first scheduled agency to present its application.

1. Accolade-Catholic Charities Adult Day Care – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$15,000

Presenter: Petrinia Sanders-Turner

Ms. Sanders-Turner stated that Accolade provides services primarily to older adults who cannot be at home safely alone. Most clients have dementia and/or other cognitive impairments and others have physical disabilities. One client is only 47 years old. She said that Accolade provides support and assistance to clients by offering supervised, structured activities that increase socialization.

Ms. Sanders-Turner further described the proposed project, showed a video clip and answered members' questions. All the details of Accolade's presentation and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To listen to the proceedings, please contact the Village of Oak Park Community Development Division.

2. Catholic Charities – ESG

Requested: \$15,000; \$5,000 for eligible Homeless Prevention activities.

Presenter: Ken Kiebler

Mr. Kiebler said that Catholic Charities seeks \$5,000 in ESG funds for Homeless Prevention. Originally, Catholic Charities applied for a total of \$15,000, with \$10,000 being sought for ESG Essential Services and Operations. However, this \$10,000 was sought for ESG costs that were ineligible per a recent HUD ruling, of which Catholic Charities had been informed earlier in the year. Mr. Kiebler said he wasn't sure whether Catholic Charities would be able to reapply the \$10,000 toward Homeless Prevention activities. Ms. Akerstrom said that this would be up to the CDCAC.

Mr. Kiebler further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of Catholic Charities' presentation and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To listen to the proceedings, please contact the Village of Oak Park Community Development Division.

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3. Pillars – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$10,000

Presenters: Mary Beth Sheets and Diane Gilliard

Ms. Sheets said that Pillars seeks 2010 CDBG funds to provide substance abuse treatment to teens and adolescents in a group therapy setting. Ms. Sheets thanked the Committee for consideration of allocating Pillars CDBG funds, which would enable the Substance Abuse program to continue during a period of state funding cuts (up to 30% in reductions).

Ms. Gilliard said that Pillars uses a sliding scale fee structure and has not yet turned a client away due to inability to pay. Most clients are referred through OPRF High School. She said that the first step in the process is an assessment of the client, starting with an interview of the young person and their parent(s). Sometimes there is an attempt to improve the larger family problems that may contribute to the client's substance abuse. Ms. Gilliard noted that there is also a parent support group component to the program.

The presenters further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of Pillars' presentation and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To listen to the proceedings, please contact the Village of Oak Park Community Development Division.

4. Hephzibah Children's Association – CDBG Facility Improvements

Requested: \$60,200

Presenters: Mary Anne Brown, Sarah Arnett and Michael Murphy

Ms. Brown stated that funding is being requested to replace components of the agency's aging building (built in 1927). The 946 North Boulevard site serves as a group home for formerly abused and neglected children who are now wards of the state and in the care of Hephzibah.

Ms. Arnett and Mr. Murphy both noted that items in need of replacement in the kitchen have been deemed necessary by recent Oak Park Public Health Department inspections in an effort to replace porous surfaces. Another proposed component is the installation of permanent tub surrounds in two places. Also proposed is the installation of new windows, doors and door frames, and the replacement of flooring in high-traffic areas. The flooring work is the agency's lowest priority, according to Ms. Brown.

The presenters further described the proposed project, answered members' questions and invited all members to come out and see their building and the proposed work. All the details of Hephzibah's presentation and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To listen to the proceedings, please contact the Village of Oak Park Community Development Division.

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5. NAMI Metro Suburban – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$6,000

Presenters: Merriam Wamble and John Heumann

Ms. Wamble noted that NAMI Metro Suburban is the local affiliate of the National Association for the Mentally Ill. She stated that funding is being requested for salary support for NAMI Drop In Center Facilitators, who are “consumers” – a term used for persons with mental disabilities to indicate that such a client is in a decision-making position and empowered to improve oneself. She added that the Drop In Center is unique because it is peer-operated. She mentioned that NAMI may lose a large amount of State funding.

Mr. Heumann said that the key components of the Drop In Center are peer support and education for consumers. He mentioned a few of the supportive, cultural and educational activities held at the Drop In Center. Mr. Heumann noted that most clients are from Oak Park.

The presenters further described the proposed project. All the details of NAMI’s presentation and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To listen to the proceedings, please contact the Village of Oak Park Community Development Division.

Old Business

The minutes of August 20, 2008 and July 1, 2009 were approved unanimously without changes.

New Business

Ms. Akerstrom said that some examples of proposal scoring/rating systems could be presented to members. In the past, such a system was not used. Several members were interested in seeing examples.

Ms. Akerstrom summarized two items concerning two presentations heard tonight. First, Catholic Charities would be asked to show their capacity to use the \$10,000 (requested for ineligible costs) solely for ESG Homeless Prevention activities. Second, the CDCAC would soon receive more information on Oak Park Public Health Department inspection reports for Hephzibah’s kitchen.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.