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**Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)
Presentations II
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 201
July 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chairman William B. Merrill, Walter Afable, Mark Benson, Gail Bien, Glynne Gervais, Beverly Graham and Kevin Hooper

Absent: C. Jackson Darnall and Alison Fraunhar

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

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and invited the first scheduled agency to present its application.

I. Oak-Leyden Developmental Services – CDBG Facility Improvement

Requested: \$194,096

Presenter: Bob Atkinson

Mr. Atkinson distributed the agency's annual report and described the proposed facilities improvement project, which would benefit persons with developmental disabilities at two of their buildings: 320 Chicago Avenue and 411 Chicago Avenue. He said that one component of the proposed work would improve conditions for disabled workers at 320 Chicago Avenue by replacing the HVAC system, which is particularly deficient for heating.

Mr. Atkinson also described proposed work at the agency's 411 Chicago Avenue building, where a new roof is needed. Another proposed work item at the 320 Chicago Avenue Workshop is to expand bathroom capacity and usefulness. Similar bathroom work was completed using 2007 VOP CDBG funds for the men's bathroom; now Oak-Leyden hopes to complete the women's bathroom. Finally, there is the façade renovation at 411 Chicago Avenue.

Asked to prioritize work, Mr. Atkinson listed the HVAC work, closely followed by the roof, then the Workshop bathroom, and last, the façade work. He was not sure if the façade work would need to be approved by Village historic preservation officials.

Mr. Atkinson further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of Oak-Leyden'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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2. Parenthesis – Two CDBG Public Service Proposals

Presenter: Kathy Kern

a) Parenting on our Own Program

Requested: \$16,321

Ms. Kern presented an overview of Parenthesis – a 29 year old agency – and the Parenting on our Own Program, which assists parents who are younger but beyond the teen years. She stated that Parenting on our Own operates on a national model called *Parents as Teachers*, which helps persons become better parents. She said that the model has several components, including twice-monthly home visits and ongoing case management.

Ms. Kern noted that most participants are low-income and that several are special needs persons. At meetings, in addition to learning about parenting, clients get information on topics such as finances and nutrition. At the meetings, the clients' children are cared for by other staff in a separate room. She said that Parenting on our Own is similar to the agency's Parenteen Program in several ways.

b) Parenthesis Parenteen Program

Requested: \$20,120

Ms. Kern said that the Parenteen Program assists teen parents and also operates on the *Parents as Teachers* model. Some services such as transportation and meals are provided to ensure that participants attend meetings. She said that one priority of the program is literacy and the self-improvement of clients. Ms. Kern also stated that participants are taken on field trips, often to the Oak Park Library.

Ms. Kern said that clients involved with Parenteen come voluntarily because they see the benefits that can be realized. Ms. Kern said that there is a huge demand for the Program, as teen pregnancies locally (and nationally) have increased significantly. Ms. Kern noted that, not surprisingly, the poor economy has made things even tougher for Parenteen clients. She added that there is a particular emphasis on discussing smart choices and healthy relationships with the clients.

Ms. Kern further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of both Parenthesis' presentations 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. The Children’s Clinic – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$30,000

Presenters: Elizabeth Lippitt and Dr. Jill Baskin

Ms. Lippitt and Dr. Baskin distributed the agency’s annual report and newsletter and described the proposed project, which would provide affordable dental services to low-income youth.

Ms. Lippitt said that the agency mainly serves low income kids seeking dental care. She noted that the agency needs CDBG grant funds to continue this high level of dental service, especially considering that state funding may be severely reduced and that private donations are down at a time when need is up. She added that the Children’s Clinic is a UIC Dental School Pilot Site where UIC Dental Student interns rotate time. She clarified that the clinic served approximately 1,900 children last year, 23% of them Oak Parkers, and expects to serve even more Oak Park kids next year (564).

Dr. Baskin said that an important component of the Children’s Clinic is teaching children good oral health habits, in addition to fixing teeth. She noted that some of this education is enhanced by newer technology. Dr. Baskin added that the Children’s Clinic works with Hephzibah children – residents of the group home, as well as children in Hephzibah day care facilities.

The presenters further described the proposed project and answered members’ questions. All the details of the Children’s Clinic’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.

4. Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$5,000

Presenter: Sharmili Majmudar

Ms. Majmudar talked about RVA’s history and origins and stated that funding is being sought to provide advocacy services to rape victims entering Resurrection West Suburban Hospital. She noted that RVA has been serving victims at this hospital for eight years. With about 10% of West Suburban Hospital rape victims being Oak Parkers, the agency felt that it was time to apply for VOP CDBG funds. Ms. Majmudar said that services provided would start when the victim is admitted and would continue until the client no longer needs RVA’s assistance.

Ms. Majmudar talked about how RVA’s proposal originally presumed that all beneficiaries would be low-moderate income persons, but after consulting with Village staff, realized that income information would need to be obtained at the point of intake to ensure eligibility.

Ms. Majmudar further described the proposed project and answered members’ questions. All the details of RVA’s presentation and subsequent questions can be heard

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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.

5. Oak Park Residence Corporation (ResCorp) – CDBG Housing

Requested: \$125,095.55

Presenters: Edward Solan and Jim King

Mr. Solan noted that ResCorp has been in existence for 45 years. The agency has managed the 76-unit Oaks building (built in the 1920s) for 30 years. He said this building houses mostly seniors and persons with disabilities, with ten units set aside for persons with physical disabilities. Two of the units on the first floor are leased by a home health care company.

Mr. King said that ResCorp needs to replace the nearly 30 year old alarm system in the Oaks. The new system would better pinpoint from where a fire is coming and would add more pull stations on the floors. If funded, ResCorp would cover any incidental costs.

The presenters further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of ResCorp'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.

New Business

The minutes of July 28, 2009 were reviewed and unanimously approved with two changes made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.