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**Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)
Presentations III
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101
August 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: None

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

Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and invited the first scheduled agency to present its application.

I. Sarah's Inn – Two Proposals

Presenters: Regina Botterill and Kate Black

a) Crisis Line Volunteer Coordinator – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$16,500

Ms. Botterill said that the requested project would partially fund a newer position – the Volunteer Coordinator. In previous years, VOP CDBG funds helped pay for a part-time Crisis Line Counselor position. This Volunteer Coordinator position took the Crisis Line Counselor's duties and added more tasks to become a full-time position, according to Ms. Black.

Ms. Botterill said that the agency relies on many volunteers to staff the hotline and expects this trend to continue, though in a manner in which less demand would be on each volunteer due to the Volunteer Coordinator's management skills.

Ms. Botterill noted that the agency may lose some state funding at a time when the need for Sarah's Inn has greatly risen. She described the Crisis Line as a vital resource for women and children survivors of domestic violence, especially during such tough times. In response to a question, she added that Sarah's Inn works closely with Rape Victim Advocates.

b) ESG Homeless Prevention

Requested: \$5,000

Ms. Black stated that the agency's ESG proposal again requests homeless prevention funds – this time, double the amount requested last year due to rising demand. She said that victims need this assistance even more at this time of massive job losses; prevention funds can be the one thing keeping them from homelessness.

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Ms. Botterill said that the poor economy has affected many client households in that abuse has increased while many victims have been more reluctant to leave a toxic situation. Ms. Black said that Prevention funds enable victims to leave abusive situations, as such funds can be used for the first month's rent and/or security deposit. Thus, Prevention funds provide stability to victims in these cases. Ms. Black stressed that, when targeting Prevention funds, Sarah's Inn is diligent in ensuring that each household has the ability to sustain the apartment for the long term.

The presenters further described the proposed projects and answered members' questions. All the details of Sarah's Inn's 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.

2. Seguin Services – CDBG Facility Improvement

Requested: \$68,500

Presenters: Jim Haptonstahl and Inga Sandoval

Mr. Haptonstahl described the proposed project as assisting persons with developmental disabilities living in three single-family group homes in Oak Park at 1124 N. Humphrey, 134 S. East, and 436 S. Taylor. Mr. Haptonstahl thanked the Committee for past CDBG funds and noted that state funding to Seguin may be reduced. The agency already had to let most of their Maintenance Department staff go, according to Ms. Sandoval.

Mr. Haptonstahl noted that the quality and all around functionality of the work is checked by local and state inspectors, as well as CARF accreditation officials. He added that Seguin often advocates for their clients through elected officials in terms of ensuring that persons can get into a group home in a reasonable amount of time.

Ms. Sandoval said that she ensures that the group homes stay in good shape, adding that VOP CDBG funds help make this possible. She said that proposed improvements would increase the safety, accessibility, and overall well-being of Seguin's clientele, emphasizing that all proposed work is vital. Asked to prioritize, she said that, in order of importance, their priorities are: the lift on Taylor; the kitchen on Humphrey; the bathrooms on East; the kitchen on East; and the doors on East.

The presenters further described the proposed project, passed around "before" photos of proposed work and answered members' questions. All the details of Seguin'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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3. Senior Citizens Center – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$15,000

Presenters: Domenica Abbott and Galen Gockel

Ms. Abbott described the proposed project which would provide activity programs for low- and moderate-income senior citizens in order to enhance their lives and to enable them to be more social, productive and healthy. She noted how, as an entire society, we don't value our elders enough. She stated that the Senior Citizens Center has added "The Lifelong Learning Center" to its name and that it is located at the Oak Park Arms, though the agency feels that it is independent of the Arms, despite the physical attachment.

Ms. Abbott said that the agency is membership-driven, that anyone over 50 can join, but that membership has gone down over the years. She said that half of their membership lives at the Arms. As a newer executive director, she plans to make the programs more attractive to a broader range of persons while elevating the interest in the Center in order to bring in more members.

Mr. Gockel emphasized the quality of the art and crafts produced at the Center and noted that the agency plans to do a better job of partnering with other Oak Park area non-profit agencies.

The presenters further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of the Senior Citizens Center'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. Thrive Counseling Center – CDBG Public Service

Requested: \$11,520

Presenters: Sidney Wax and Joan Pearce

Mr. Wax described the proposed project, which seeks to hire an experienced psychiatric-knowledgeable Occupational Therapist (OT) consultant to work at Thrive four hours per week (for 48 weeks) at \$60 per hour.

Mr. Wax noted that the OT would conduct advanced functional assessments on persons with serious mental illnesses to determine basic motor abilities used for daily living skills. He said that after conducting intake, assessments and evaluations, the OT would help consumers improve such skills, better adapt to the community and be more productive – possibly even work. He considered it a holistic way of helping consumers.

Ms. Akerstrom noted that the process of hiring such a consultant would need to follow federal procurement practices.

The presenters further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of Thrive's presentation and subsequent questions can be

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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

With regard to the Hephzibah proposal, Ms. Akerstrom covered the Village Health Inspection report on the facility, noting the order of priorities. It was noted that, if the proposal is not fully funded, the CDCAC could determine the exact work to be funded.

Ms. Akerstrom also stated that Kathy Kern from Parenthesis corrected the Parenteen beneficiaries that were listed in the proposal. She said that 59 persons would benefit (not 52), and that all of them will be low-mod income persons. Of the 59 Parenteen beneficiaries, 53 would be Oak Park persons.

New Business

The minutes of July 30, 2009 were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.