

# MINUTES

**Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)  
Presentations IV  
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 101  
August 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chairman William B. Merrill, Walter Afable, Mark Benson, Gail Bien, C. Jackson Darnall, Alison Fraunhar, Glynn 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 7:04 p.m. and invited the second scheduled agency to present its application (the first – Vital Bridges – had not yet arrived).

## **I. Volunteer Center – CDBG Public Service**

**Requested:** \$14,100

**Presenter:** Abby Schmelling

Ms. Schmelling said that the Volunteer Center is a nearly twenty-five year old agency that matches volunteers with organizations that need the help. She said that they have four programs, three of which are youth programs. One such program is the TIME Program, in which young persons facing charges for minor incidents voluntarily do community service to avoid paying a fine. She described the TEAM program as utilizing volunteers with mental illnesses to make their lives more productive.

Ms. Schmelling noted that the Volunteer Center is again seeking public service funds to pay rent at their main office – location yet to be determined, as they are moving – and at First Baptist Church, where they pay \$100/month. She noted that they are close to sub-leasing a space that will be shared with the OPRF Chamber of Commerce, which will cost the Volunteer Center \$800/month.

Ms. Akerstrom noted that, if funded, further details will have to be worked out with the Volunteer Center if they share space with an agency that does not offer CDBG-eligible programs.

Ms. Schmelling further described the proposed project and answered members' questions. All the details of the Volunteer 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.

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## 2. Vital Bridges – Two Proposals

**Presenter:** Armando Smith

### a) Dietary Enhancement – CDBG Public Service

**Requested:** \$10,000

Mr. Smith said that Vital Bridges is a twenty year old agency that serves persons with HIV/AIDS. He said that Vital Bridges has 28 staff persons. For 2010, they are requesting CDBG funds to buy food for, and provide nutritional counseling to, 16 Oak Park clients. He stated that Vital Bridges would provide a total of ten meals each week to these clients.

Mr. Smith said that the food would be distributed out of their Ridgeland Avenue/Harrison Street office, and that clients would receive bags of groceries and would prepare the food themselves. He noted that the food allowance for clients is based on income and health status, and added that – in addition to receiving food and nutritional counseling – clients also receive case management services.

### b) ESG Operations Proposal

**Requested:** \$20,000

Mr. Smith said that Vital Bridges is requesting \$20,000 for rent support for the Showalter Residence, located at 324 N. Austin Boulevard in Oak Park. At Showalter, Vital Bridges provides transitional housing to persons with HIV/AIDS. He noted that Vital Bridges leases the building from the Oak Park Residence Corporation, and added that there are six small units in the main structure and one unit in the coach house that is reserved for a family. He stated that there is a resident manager on site.

Mr. Smith said that there are social functions held at Showalter, and added that clients can receive case management services there. He said that Vital Bridges' transitional housing program strives to give clients stability and prepares them to move to permanent supportive housing or market rate housing. He pointed out that client residents are prohibited from using drugs or alcohol in the units.

Mr. Smith further described the proposed projects and answered members' questions. All the details of Vital Bridges' 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.

## 3. West Suburban PADS – Three Proposals

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**Presenters:** Sherri Hackett and Misti Faust

## **a) ESG Operations, Essential Services and Homeless Prevention Proposal**

**Requested:** \$60,200

PADS passed out a folder with details on PADS' ESG proposal, as well as the two CDBG proposals. Ms. Hackett said that PADS is requesting \$60,200 for their ESG project, broken down as follows: Essential Services - \$12,500; Operations - \$38,700; and Homeless Prevention - \$9,000.

Ms. Faust described each line item under the Operations category. Ms. Hackett said that the need for Homeless Prevention continues to increase for PADS clients due to the poor economy. She noted that ESG Operations funds used to help pay for transitional housing apartments, but that PADS no longer can do this since HUD determined that this use is not eligible for scattered-site units.

## **b) Emergency Shelter – CDBG Public Service**

**Requested:** \$22,800

Ms. Hackett said that PADS was founded in 1991, and noted that the agency has 1,000 volunteers and 11 shelter sites – five of them being in Oak Park. She said that PADS collaborates with these 11 area congregations to provide overnight shelter eight months out of the year, from mid-September to mid-May.

However, starting in 2009, PADS expanded the program into the Summer for the first time. In addition to getting a place to sleep, guests receive food and services at each shelter site. She added that PADS continually partners with other non-profits on a number of initiatives.

## **c) Transitional Housing – CDBG Public Service**

**Requested:** \$36,129

Ms. Hackett said that the agency is requesting \$36,129 to help pay for the leasing of five transitional housing apartments. She said that this program is run in conjunction with the Oak Park Residence Corporation, which maintains the apartments and charges PADS only 80% of each apartment's market value. She added that the Transitional Housing program is geared towards homeless families, who pay 30% of their income for units.

Ms. Hackett said that clients can stay in the Transitional Housing program for up to 24 months. Ms. Hackett said that PADS' goal is to use case management to enable clients to become self-sufficient, adding that "transitional housing is a safety net and a stepping stone." Upon "graduation," each family receives \$1,000.

Ms. Hackett and Ms. Faust further described the proposed projects and answered members' questions. All the details of West Suburban PADS' ESG presentations and subsequent questions can be heard on an audio device at the Oak Park Village Hall. To

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### **New Business**

The minutes of August 4, 2009 were approved unanimously.

The three CDCAC members that were on board last year talked about the Working Meeting process and their experiences at past meetings. It was noted that members would receive a blank funding worksheet via email, would be expected to complete the worksheet for all agencies requesting funding, and would submit their funding recommendation worksheets to Village staff in advance of the Working Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.