

City of New Haven
Meeting Minutes (Short)
Joint Community
Development/Human Services
Committee

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Thursday, February 5, 2009

6:00 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

Consolidated Plan/CDBG Software hearing including HOPWA and ESG

ORDER APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2009-2010 INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA), AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes

**Joint Community Development-Human Services
Consolidated Plan - Software Hearing**

Feb. 5, 2009

Co-Chair Edmonds-Sepulveda called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall. Also present were co-chair Blango and Aids. DePino, S. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez, Calder, Smart, Lemar, Plattus, Clark, James, Jones, and Brison.

The purpose of the hearing was to hear public testimony on the 2009-2010 Consolidated Plan/Community Development Block Grant, specifically the Software, HOPWA, and ESG portions of the mayor's proposed budget.

The speakers were:

Birmingham Health Services: Boyd Despres and Elaine Mottt. They asked for an increase in funding for this HOPWA agency in order to improve its services.

Emergency Shelter Grant: Appearing for this section of the budget were Ronald Manning, Deputy Community Services Administrator, and service providers Allison Cunningham of Columus House, Larie McGruder and Cristina Urrutia of Community Mediation. Cunningham said cuts to various funding sources for homelessness and difficulty in raising funds has created a challenging environment for homeless providers.

Domestic Violence Services: Sandra Koorejian and Josiah Brown, president of the board of directors. They told the committee that this organization is in financial distress, having difficulty paying utilities and other bills.

Children in Placement: Joan Jenkins. She said the organization advocates on behalf of children whose parents are involved with the criminal justice system - juvenile as well as adult courts. It serves various New Haven neighborhoods.

New Haven Home Recovery: Kellyann Day. She asked the committee to increase this HOPWA agency's funding, as it cannot sustain any more cuts. It has increased the amount of housing it offers despite funding difficulties. A client, John, described how the agency benefited him and asked the alderpersons to increase funding.

Liberty Community Services: John Bradley. This is a New Haven-based HOPWA agency that provides housing and support services for AIDS/HIV clients who are homeless or at risk of it. He said the CDBG funding provides about 34 housing spots.

Farnam Neighborhood House: Alton Outlaw and Glenn Roundtree. They described the organization's youth programs and thanked the committee for the city's ongoing support. The agency raises funds from a wide variety of other

sources. They said CDBG provides funding for 10 part-time positions. The organization hopes to receive the same level of CDBG funding as it had last year.

Planned Parenthood: Pierrette Silverman. She said this funding will be used for a teen-pregnancy prevention program. They also have a successful STD program that is being replicated in other towns.

Hispanos Unidos: Luz Gonzalez: She said her organization runs a 4-H Day camp in Marlborough with many activities, including archery. It is staffed by volunteers and serves inner-city youth.

AIDS Project New Haven: Nicholas Boshnack and Sevie Pearson. They described the HOPWA agency's housing activities. They are starting a new workshop series to provide vocational, financial, and other types of training. They also receive Ryan White funding.

JUNTA: Hannah Greaves and Latrina Kelly (hardware and software): They said they need to replace rotten wood in the building. The organization offers English and GED classes, emphasizing English literacy for a diverse population. Since 2006, it has served over 1,400 people and there is a waiting list. They also have a health education program.

Crossroads: Miguel Caldera (hardware and software): He said the support of the Board of Aldermen is important and thanked the committee. This agency treats substance abusers and mental health clients. He said the program has a high success rate.

American Red Cross: Charles Frey and Sarah Eagan. They provide emergency services for victims of fires and other disasters in New Haven. There have been more fires this year. Some of the victims are single parents with young children.

Life Haven: Jacqueline Pheanious. She described this program, which provides temporary housing for single women who are pregnant or have children. They have a licensed day care program on site, as well as counselors to help the women find jobs and housing. They offer an employment program.

Easter Seals: Joseph Parente. He said this program provides employment counseling for ex-offenders in the Goodwill stores and Easter Seals training centers.

New Opportunities: Ric Browne and clients Jessica Figueroa and "Victor." Browne described this Waterbury-based HOPWA agency's housing and other services for people with HIV/AIDS. They have 15 people in the program. The two clients described how the program has benefited them. Browne said the organization is hoping for more funding.

Hannah Gray/Ella B. Scantlebury: Joe Murphy and Kerry Walker. Murphy said this facility provides elderly inpatient care.

Clifford Beers Clinic: Maria Filippi and David Abrams. They asked the committee for support for the agency's newest program for juvenile sex offenders. They said

the amount of children with reactive behaviors is increasing.

STRIVE-New Haven: Andrew Orefice. New to CDBG, this organization provides services for former offenders, he said.

Greater New Haven Business and Professional Association: Gerald S. Clarke. This program provides support and technical assistance to New Haven businesses and entrepreneurs.

New Haven Ecology Project/Common Ground: Rebecca Holcomb. She said funding is needed for the agency's new Youth Unplugged nature program.

Centro San Jose: Regina Childers and Mindy Centenno. They said this program assists with their youth programs. Although it is in Fair Haven, it serves youth from other neighborhoods.

Youth Soccer: Andrew Zehner and Lauren Mednick. They thanked the committee for its past support. The club has about 600 players from throughout the city. The CDBG funding is used to provide scholarships to the program for low-income youths. No children are turned away. Sergio Olmedeo, a player, described his positive experiences with the program.

New Haven Pop Warner: Reginald Lytle and Melvin Wells. They described the seasonal youth football program whose goal is to give kids the opportunity to learn skills and discipline before they get to high school. They had a championship team last season.

IRIS: Chris George. The program provides housing and food for refugees from other countries who have been invited here by the U.S. State Department. Clean, safe housing is a critical need for these immigrants.

Casa Otonal: Tomas Miranda. He described the housing, health care, and day care programs at this residential facility for the elderly. They still have the after-school visitation program.

Columbus House: Allison Cunningham. She was appearing on behalf of the agency's HOPWA program which provides supportive housing program. She asked the committee to consider a higher level of funding for the program.

Fair Haven Community Health Clinic: Katrina Clark and Nelson Cruz. They noted that this agency received funding for software but not hardware. The software has helped them serve uninsured people and provide vaccinations for children. However, they did not receive hardware to help improve the facility and they asked the committee to reconsider.

New Haven Boys and Girls Club: Stephanie Barnes. She described the club's various activities and asked the Aldermen to increase funding.

Literacy Volunteers: Doss Venema. She said the funding will be used to train tutors and provide books. She said Literacy Volunteers trains volunteers for three of the other CDBG software agencies - JUNTA, San Jose, and IRIS.

R'Kids: Randi Rubin Rodriguez (hardware and software). She described the agency's programs and its need to expand. She said she did not know why the mayor did not fund it this year.

Neighborhood Housing Services and Neighborworks Homeownership Center: Bridgette Russell. The center has become very active in the foreclosure prevention effort. They are also helping sub-prime mortgage victims and working on the city's task force. They have created an energy efficiency education lab that will help people improve their homes.

Mary Wade Home: David Hunter (hardware and software). He described the Weekend Transportation Program. In hardware, they are requesting funds to continue rehabbing properties they have acquired in the neighborhood, which will be used for assisted living.

Independence Northwest: Carolyn Sanzel. This is a HOPWA agency that is run by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. She said this funding will be used for a transitional housing program.

Visiting Nurses Association: Ellen Rubin. They are now working with homeless persons and trying to cure their depression and stress. They also are treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder caused by domestic violence. They work with other community agencies and now want to create a new Partnership with Dixwell-Newhallville Mental Health Services.

Connecticut Children and Families Center: Susan Jackson-Mack. She said this program is at 230 Ashmun Street. They provide social, case management, and mentoring services. They sponsor field trips, and are working on an anti-gun violence and dropout prevention with a 90 percent success rate. They have a program that fosters positive role models for girls.

Alexis Hills Montessori School: Kaye Harvey and Arnetha Eaddy. This is a new program. The funding will help the Montessori school serve students city wide.

Children's Museum: Sandra Malmquist. She said this agency provides various services to children, including a field trip program. They have a new program which provides children with books. The field trips serve children from a number of neighborhoods.

Adjourn: 9:15 p.m.

A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier
Legislative Aide