

MINUTES
HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE
March 24, 2009
CITY HALL
Council Chambers
1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
7:00 - 9:30 PM

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Present: Chair Brosseau, Bondonno, Dempsey, Vice Chair Dickinson, Manuel, Miller, Robinson & Wright

Housing and Human Concerns Committee Members Absent: Richardson

Staff Members Present: Chin and Mees

Staff Members Absent: Jones-Thomas and Webb

Guests Present: None

1. Approval of Minutes

M/S (Manuel/Wright) to approve minutes from February 24, 2009.

Approved 8-0

M/S (Wright/Dickinson) to approve minutes from March 4, 2009.

Approved 8-0

2. Oral Communications

None

3. Public Hearing

None

4. New Items

4.a. Agency Presentations Regarding Applications for Funding-Human Services Financial Assistance Program for FY 2009-2010

1) Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) Tulin Acikalin, Managing Attorney of the San Mateo County Office, thanked the Committee for their prior support of their clinic. She stated the organization provides assistance with restraining orders and other legal services to approximately 900 applicants each year.

2) Center for the Independence for the Disabled Kent Mickelsen, Executive Director, said their grant was to provide housing for people in Redwood City. They are partnering with HIP Housing for their home sharing program. The key to the program is making sure the homes in the home sharing program are accessible to the elderly and disabled.

3) CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) Cori Manthorne, Director of Programs, thanked the Committee for the ongoing support and told the Committee in San Mateo County CORA received approximately 4,000 calls on the domestic violence hotline and 2,000 referrals from the law enforcement program each year. Looking at the first six months of the year, CORA received 237 hotline calls specifically from Redwood City residents, which is 27% increase from the year before. Cora has also recently hired a new manager of client services.

4) Family Service Agency of San Mateo County Susan Houston, Director of Older Adult Services, thanked the Committee for their past support for their services for older adults at Fair Oaks. FSA has provided comprehensive services to at risk low income populations in Redwood City. They have started a bi-lingual wellness navigator who meets with participants and encourages them to partake in the free and healthy meal services and exercise classes. Stanford Hospital recently contacted FSA to offer community benefit programming at Fair Oaks as well.

5) Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc. (FLY) Aila Malik, Associate Director, addressed the Committee and said Redwood City was the only city in San Mateo County FLY has been able to get funding from in about four years. She thanked the committee because the funding received from Redwood City has allowed them to leverage support with foundations, probation and other places. The Redwood City School District has given FLY a four year violence prevention grant and probation has given funding for an intense case management program. She continued by saying their largest referral group is from Redwood City. She invited the committee to an event they are having on April 23rd.

6) Friends of Youth Becky Cooper, Executive Director, told the Committee they were celebrating their 30th anniversary of services and thanked the committee for the role the city has played in their success over the years. She continued by saying the funding they received from the city has leveraged support from the county for them. Friends for Youth also has a mentoring component where they provide national leadership and expertise in the mentoring field.

7 & 8) International Institute of the Bay Area-Deportation Defense for Immigrant Families and Immigration and Citizenship Program in San Mateo County Sheryl Munoz-Bergman, Director, thanked the Committee for their past support. She said this is the second year their agency is asking for support for two separate projects. The Immigration and Citizenship Program is their core program that HSFA has supported for the past 10 years. This program helps those who are eligible become US citizens and permanent legal residents. The support for this program would allow them to serve over 1,000 Redwood City residents with legal advice and assistance. The newer program, which the funding from last year helped launch, is the deportation defense for immigrant families. This program is to staff a monthly clinic and leverage pro bono attorneys to provide legal consultation to clients. Ms. Munoz-Bergman shared two letters from two Redwood City girls.

8) Kainos Home & Training Center Andy Frisch addressed the Committee and said their proposal is for medical care access and healthy living for seniors. The four challenges that Kainos is currently facing are 1) clients access to healthcare has become challenging 2) an increase in physical and emotional needs of their clients 3) clients are living and working

more independently over the years and have needed more support from them and 4) preventative care and people being more proactive in healthy living to reduce medical issues in the future. The program has received an initial grant from the Sequoia Healthcare District.

10) Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County Stacey Hawyer, Executive Director, thanked the Committee for hosting the Redwood City housing clinic and said she was available for questions.

11) Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County Tippy Irwin, Director, thanked the Committee for all their support over the years. She also added they have a new address on 711 Nevada Street in Redwood City and they are grateful to Redwood City for giving them free office space in return for services. Ms. Irwin said they are one of the few organizations that has lost 100% of their funding by the state.

12) Peninsula Volunteers-Meals on Wheels Sima Dahi, Program Director, addressed the Committee and said Meal on Wheels now delivers from Belmont to East Palo Alto. Ms. Dahi said their drivers are one of the few people who are constantly watching over the clients on a daily basis. Last year they had a grant position from Presbyterian Homes and have provided a fully paid social worker for three years that can visit their clients and see if something is amiss. Ms. Dahi said 30% of their unduplicated clients throughout the year are from Redwood City.

13 & 14) Rape Trauma Services of San Mateo County-Sexual Assault Services Program and Rape & Sexual Abuse Prevention Program Sarah Jarvis, Director, thanked the Committee for supporting both programs in the past. She said there is a violence prevention program that looks at all they cycles of trauma and healing and the work the committee supports is doing a lot of good.

15) Samaritan House Kitty Lopez, Executive Director, and Dr. Jason Wong, Medical Director, thanked the Committee for their ongoing support over the years. Dr. Wong said their newest program was a diabetes prevention program to help their patients incorporate a healthier lifestyle by focusing on 7% weight loss and 150 minutes of exercise. The hope is the patience will adopt these lifestyles which will pass down to their kids.

16) Second Harvest Food Bank Bob Golsky, volunteer, thanked the Committee for their generous support in the past. They serve 328 local agencies in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, which include food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Of those 328 agencies, 35 are in Redwood City and they are the largest provider, behind food stamps, of food assistance in the two counties. They provide assistance to 200,000 people or 7.6% of the total population in the two counties.

17) Service League of San Mateo County-Emergency Material Assistance Mike Nevin, Executive Director, addressed the Committee. He said Service League has gotten approval from Daly City for \$6,000 and \$6,000 from the City of South San Francisco. Going forward Service League is going to make an effort to make other cities aware of the impact the jails and drug and alcohol programs have on Redwood City and Redwood City has already stepped up for their fair share.

18) Service League of San Mateo County-Hope House Program Karen Francone, Program Director, thanked the Committee for their support over the years. She said they have started a nutrition program at the Hope Houses and are working on trying to improve the menus, exercise programs and eating better. They have also started gender responsive training inside the women's correctional center to serve additional women inside the jail, which helps to transition the women as they get out. Ms. Francone said they will be adding a bedroom and bathroom in their transitional house for women so they will have two additional beds next fiscal year. There will also be a bilingual translator going into the women's correctional center and translating all of their services and talking about the Hope House services.

19) Teen Pregnancy Coalition Kris Ahmed, Associate Director, thanked the Committee for their continued support of their organization. Ms. Ahmed shared a story with the committee, and said they are now serving students with disabilities, which is a population that is often forgotten but is considered high risk.

20) Salvation Army Bonnie Miller thanked the Committee for supporting them for so many years and said without the support there would be no motel vouchers since that is what the funds mainly fund. The funding also helps with the food bank fee, which has about doubled.

21) Youth and Family Enrichment Services (YFES) Clarice Blanchard, Department Director, said she was connected with the Crisis Center and their proposal is for the only San Mateo County crisis line which operates 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year and their goal is to be available for every man, woman and child in San Mateo County and Redwood City specifically to address any issues overwhelming to residents. Ms. Blanchard said they service any kind of crisis and staff that man the hotline receive 50 hours of training every year to keep them current. This year they have been successful in attracting bi-lingual staff.

5. Continuing Items

None

6. Items of Committee Interest

Staff member Chin told the Committee that Kaiser is doing a health and resource fair on Friday at the Fair Oaks Community Center in honor of the Cesar Chavez Celebration. There will be services from Kaiser and other tables from 2:00-5:00 PM.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting of April 8, 2009

M/S (Wright/Dickinson) to adjourn

Motion Passed, approved 8-0

Members are to complete their individual funding rating and ranking forms and turn them in to staff by 12:00 PM on Monday April 6, 2009. Funding deliberations will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday April 8, 2009 in the Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.