

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 26, 2003

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Robert Layton, Chairman; Cicero Lewis, Vice Chairman; Lynne Langley; Jean Pecunies; William Thorpe; Nancy Emerson; and Gia Yannekis.

Absent: Russ Van Billiard; Paul Staples; and Dani Rooney.

Staff: Karen Jacoby, Community Development Program Manager

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Layton opened the meeting and stated that presentations from applicants to the CDBG Public Service Agency Grant Program would be heard. Each applicant would be given a 15-minute block of time to make their presentation and answer questions.

Mr. Layton welcomed Deanna Gallant, Office/Finance Manager for A Safe Place, and advised her that she had 15 minutes to make her presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Gallant provided an overview of their application for funding. She noted that federal, state and county sources funded two-thirds of their budget. In order to strengthen the agency's financial stability, they have expanded the number of fundraising events. The agency is also considering the development of a transitional shelter.

Ms. Yannekis asked if there had been an increase in the number of clients served in the past year. Ms. Gallant replied that there had been. The increase was due to improved maintenance of statistics and increased visibility. In the coming year, the agency is projecting a 10% increase in the number of clients served. In response to Ms. Yannekis' request for a description of the clientele, she explained that of the 95 individuals sheltered, 45 were children and 50 were adult women. Ms. Gallant said that the average age of the adult women was 25 – 30 years.

Mr. Layton, noting that CDBG funds were requested to fund the shelter staff positions, asked how many shelter staff were employed. Ms. Gallant replied that there were 4 full-time staff at the shelter. Ms. Jacoby asked how the satellite offices were faring. Ms. Gallant replied that the Salem and Rochester offices were quite busy.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Layton thanked Ms. Gallant for her presentation.

Ms. Jacoby welcomed Helen Taft, Director of Families First Health and Support Center, and advised her that she had 15 minutes to make her presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Taft gave an overview of their application for funds for the Health Services Program conducted by Families First Health and Support Center. Ms. Taft noted that the increase in the number to be served was partly due to the Healthcare for the Homeless grant that the agency had received. This grant funds a van which provides health care services at homeless shelters and remote locations. The agency also now offers a dental program. She highlighted that 50% of their

clients were from Portsmouth. The agency is serving an increasing number of transients, speakers of foreign languages, and low income, uninsured women.

Mr. Layton asked if their programming included vision services. Ms. Taft replied that clients were referred to the Lion's Club for glasses. Ms. Jacoby asked if their medical services included the provision of gynecological exams and STD testing. Ms. Taft replied that these services were provided as well as breast and cervical cancer screening.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Layton thanked Ms. Taft for her presentation.

Ms. Jacoby welcomed Keryn Kriegel, Family Services Program Director at Families First Health and Support Center, and advised her that she had 15 minutes to make her presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Kriegel summarized their application for funding. She also noted new programs and collaborations that have recently been formed. These include their Practicum in Parenting program and collaboration with Seacoast Hospice. The agency anticipates an 18% increase in clientele in the coming year.

Mr. Thorpe asked what factors influenced the increase in the number of clients served. Ms. Kriegel stated that she thought that it was due to their partnerships with the Technical College, the Alliance for Community Health and the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority Family Assistance Program.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Layton thanked Ms. Kriegel for her presentation.

Ms. Jacoby welcomed Seacoast Family YMCA representatives Frank Nappo, Executive Director, and Loretta Prescott, Marketing Director, and advised them that they had 15 minutes to make their presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Prescott presented their application for funding for the ACCESS Program. She highlighted the fact that due to the economy there had been a decrease in fundraising revenues this year, while demand for services had increased. This situation has forced the agency to reduce their subsidy levels for childcare and summer camps. She noted that 62% of the participants in the ACCESS Program were from Portsmouth and subsidies for these participants totaled \$82,000.

Ms. Langley asked what percent of their members received a subsidy through the ACCESS program. Mr. Nappo replied that of their 6000 members, 750 to 1000 were enrolled in ACCESS. He described the YMCA membership as being composed of seniors (30%), children (40%) and adults (30%). Ms. Jacoby asked what impact the move to Greenland had on their after-school program. Mr. Nappo noted that there was a decrease in Portsmouth participants from 40 to 28, but this was balanced by an increase in Greenland participants. Ms. Emerson asked why the agency moved to Greenland. Ms. Prescott replied that the agency had leased space on Albany Street in Portsmouth with funding from the Foundation for Seacoast Health. When this funding was withdrawn, the YMCA was unable to support the rental cost of approximately \$35,000 without assistance, so they decided to look at other locations.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Layton thanked Mr. Nappo and Ms. Prescott for their presentation.

Ms. Jacoby welcomed Pat Hale, Foundations Grant Manager for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and Gerrie Bouffard, Nurse Practitioner at the Portsmouth office, and advised them that they had 15 minutes to make their presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Hale provided an overview of their application for funds. Ms. Bouffard noted that due to funding difficulties, the Portsmouth office had reduced the number of days the office is open to 3 days a week. She described their clientele as having an average age of 18 – 24 years.

Mr. Thorpe asked how CDBG funds would be used by the agency. Ms. Hale stated that the funds would support the salary for the nurse practitioner. Ms. Jacoby asked if Planned Parenthood collaborated with other agencies. Ms. Bouffard replied that they did, and, specifically, with Families First. Families First refers adolescents who need contraceptives to Planned Parenthood, and Planned Parenthood refers patients with general health care needs to Families First.

Ms. Langley noted that Planned Parenthood offered sports and job physicals and asked why an individual would go to Planned Parenthood rather than Families First. Ms. Bouffard responded that Planned Parenthood could often schedule exams for the same day.

Ms. Jacoby asked if Planned Parenthood sought funds from any other towns in the area. Ms. Hale noted that the agency requested funding from Southern Maine, Biddeford and Cumberland County as well as United Way and foundations, but not from any other towns in this area.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Layton thanked Ms. Hale and Ms. Bouffard for their presentation.

Ms. Jacoby welcomed Kathy Beebe, Executive Director of Sexual Assault Support Services, and advised her that she had 15 minutes to make her presentation and respond to questions. Ms. Beebe gave an overview of their application for funding. She noted that the agency had recently partnered with the Child Advocacy Center to provide support services to non-offending parents. In addition, demand for services has increased due to the Attorney General's new requirement, which states that a crisis center must be contacted if an incident involving sexual assault is reported to the police department. She said that the Governor's new budget would not affect the agency as they do not receive any funding from the state.

Mr. Layton remarked upon the fact that their statistics do not reflect the provision of services to upper income individuals, yet we know that abuse affects individuals of all income levels. Ms. Beebe noted that often people with higher incomes obtain services privately.

Ms. Jacoby noted that the agency's budget reflected an increase in federal funding. Ms. Beebe confirmed this increase noting that it resulted from an increase in funding from the Family Violence Act. In response to questions regarding staffing, Ms. Beebe replied that the agency employs 7 full-time, 2 part-time staff and one full-time equivalent on-call staff person.

Ms. Jacoby distributed information requested by the CAC from Seacoast Workcamp and from Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Mr. Layton adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.