

EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
HEARING FOR 2006 FUNDING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005
4:30 PM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Mary Brindle
Jim Campbell
Carol Carmichiel
Amy Frankfurt
John Goetz
Debby McNeil
Sharon Ming
Andy Otness
Wayne Prochniak
Eileen Supple

Members Absent

Betsy Flaten
Idelle Longman

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Multicultural Development Center (MCDC)

While the Commissioners were on respite during the hearing, Member Frankfurt seconded Member Supple's motion to add the MCDC membership question to the agenda; the motion carried. Member Otness then proposed that the Commission join the MCDC to experience member benefits such as having Ghafar Lakanwal speak at an Edina Reads event sponsored by the Commission.

Member Frankfurt seconded the motion of Member Otness that the Commission join MCDC and evaluate its membership after one year; the motion carried.

Senior Community Services - Adele Mehta

- Requesting \$29,050 (2005 funding is \$26,250)

Senior Community Services identifies, develops, coordinates and provides services that help meet the needs of people 55 and older. The Senior Outreach Program assists vulnerable adults to remain independent in the community and assists them and their families in securing and monitoring needed services, including counseling for issues such as financial concerns, housing changes, medical insurance, grief and depression. In 2004, 568 Edina residents—frail elders and their family members with the help of 300 volunteers—received Senior Outreach services—162 of these as intensive, ongoing clients.

Cornerstone - Susan Neis

- Requesting \$15,000 (2005 funding is \$15,100)

Cornerstone provides advocacy for victims of domestic abuse. Victims and their children are helped to overcome the barriers they encounter in their struggle to live violence-free lives. Through short-term safe housing, Cornerstone provides shelters and meals for two to three days for persons in imminent danger of domestic assault. Their 24-hour Help Line provides immediate access to emergency services. The program's goals continue to be providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence, increasing the resiliency of youth, educating about the issue of domestic violence, providing volunteer service opportunities, increasing the safety of victims, providing affordable housing with a

continuum of supportive services and assisting participants in obtaining permanent housing. In 2004, Cornerstone served 90 Edina residents with 943 hours of direct service.

Cornerstone's Intervention Program works within the Criminal Court arena to make sure that people who assault their partners are held accountable by entering a guilty plea to the domestic assault. The Program supports the victim throughout the entire process to help her/him with safety issues, "hear" what type of treatment program would work best in each specific case, and work towards a satisfactory disposition to each case. When the abuser is involved in a treatment program or serving a sentence in the workhouse, the victim is encouraged to come into Cornerstone and attend a support group and access services for the children in the home. Cornerstone's Criminal Justice System utilizes a 24-hour crisis line and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for Police referrals and victim support services. In 2004, there were 277 hours of direct service as a result of 37 referrals by the Edina Police Department.

VEAP - Susan Freeman

- Requesting \$20,000 (2005 funding is \$16,000)

VEAP helps individuals who cannot financially, physically or emotionally provide for their own well-being in the following ways: back-to-school supplies, emergency financial assistance, food shelves, vouchers, furniture, holiday meals and transportation. VEAP serves residents who are low-income, disabled or elderly, with a focus on the ongoing effects of poverty, the problems of hunger and isolation. A typical Edinan served is an elderly widowed woman in need of transportation. There is rare turnover of VEAP volunteers, with more than 1000 participating in the programs. In 2004, VEAP served 604 unduplicated Edina residents.

Women in Transition - Lonna Szczesny

- Requesting \$7,750 (2005 funding is \$5,200)

The Women in Transition Program provides specialized career development and employment services to low-income women in crisis, enabling them to secure stable employment to support themselves and their families. Their services are provided on a sliding fee based on the participant's current income and ability to pay. Through this program, women establish realistic goals based on skills, aptitudes and interests. As a prevention program, it has evolved into a workshop-based career services provider for those struggling to make ends meet without relying on welfare or other public assistance. In 2004, the City of Edina's funding provided 23 job-upgrading services to nine Edina residents.

Minneapolis Mediation Program - Michele Moore

- Requesting \$5,000 (2005 funding is \$5,000)

This program strives to promote the use of mediation, conciliation and training throughout the metropolitan area, with services free of charge or for a nominal administrative fee. Edinans have primarily utilized the mediation services for issues such as business, relationship/family, neighborhood and landlord/tenant—with 60 volunteer mediators trained in these areas. The program is focused on providing dispute resolution services and training to all people but is focused especially on those whom traditional methods

don't serve well or for whom the methods would be detrimental or costly. In 2004, the program served 153 Edina residents.

Normandale Center for Healing and Wholeness - Debra Paone

- Requesting \$6,500 (2005 funding is \$5,180)

The Ministry seeks to establish and/or maintain elders' sense of connection with the community and alleviate isolation by organizing and supporting community volunteers in Care Teams that support elders and their caregivers. Care Teams—with a network of over 140 volunteers—provide social support, transportation, grocery shopping, errands and other basic services that allow elders to remain in their homes. In 2004, The Center provided care to 239 Edina residents through 74 care teams. An additional 400 Edinans were served through caregiver education, resource counseling, foot-care services and wellness clinics.

The Bridge - Ed Murphy

- Requesting \$5,000 (2005 funding is \$4,000)

The mission of The Bridge is to provide youth with safe shelter, assist in the resolution of family conflicts and reunite families whenever possible. The four types of youth served are: 1) Those from 10 to 17 in family or school conflict. The family is called within 24 hours, and a meeting is arranged, with a goal to improve relationships and provide tools. 2) Those who come from abuse and/or drug use. They might go with another family member or to foster care for a safe environment. 3) Those who are called throw-aways. This number is on the rise, because their families do not want them. An effort is made to get the families in to talk and to determine where there is a safe place to go. 4) Those whose families are homeless. These are tough cases, and other agencies get involved to find housing. The Bridge is open 24/7, and the services are free. It is a part of the StreetWorks Collaboration, and a full-time nurse is utilized with the street outreach workers. Through the emergency shelter program, The Bridge served seven Edina residents in 2004.

Store to Door - Kris Zierman-Linnell & Jan Johnson

- Requesting \$9,000 (2005 funding is \$2,660)

Store to Door is a 21 year-old nonprofit grocery shopping and prescription delivery service for frail elders and disabled residents. Anyone who is physically unable to shop qualifies for service, and the average client is 82 years old, female and living alone. Store to Door shops from five different Cub Foods stores across the Twin Cities. All clients pay for groceries and prescriptions, and there is a sliding fee scale used to determine a delivery contribution. With more than 350 volunteers—ten from Edina—55 households were served in 2004 in Edina.

Neighborhood Partnerships - Jeanne Hanson, Dave Nordenson, Cindy Joyce & Bob Olson

- Requesting \$20,000 (first-time request for funding)

This newly-created organization's mission is to successfully combine neighborhood volunteers together with nursing and home health services for the purpose of helping elders stay in their homes for as long as possible. The program provides care

coordination, transportation, visitors, chores, education, care giver support, foot care, respite care, advocacy with health providers, and cleaning and laundry assistance. These services are offered to Edina residents at no charge, and their space has been donated by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Since May 31, 2005, the organization has served over 40 clients and continues to add six to eight more a month.

Ready for Success - Mary Schatzlein & Sue Veazie

- Requesting \$3,000 (2005 funding is \$2,850)

Ready for Success offers a service to women entering or re-entering the professional workplace. It provides clothing necessary to make a positive presentation as well as the training, education and encouragement needed for long-term professional success. Each client is paired with a volunteer personal shopper who assists in "shopping" the racks of clothing in order to dress appropriately for interviews and in the workplace. Staff and volunteers offer onsite coaching and encouragement regarding workplace skills and presentation. Clients are not charged and are accepted by referral only from providers such as Cornerstone and Women in Transition. Clients who had been victims of domestic abuse reported how the program empowered them to make their own choices and gave them confidence and determination to find and retain better jobs. Ten Edina residents were served in 2004 at a \$300 cost per client.

ABC - Sherry Nuness

- Requesting \$5,000 (first-time request for funding)

The Edina ABC Foundation's mission is to provide academically talented, disadvantaged youth of color with an opportunity to attend high school in an environment that is conducive to learning. Its program has been in Edina for 30 years, and most of the support comes from the Edina community. The Edina Chapter is the nation's largest and graduated its 100th scholar this year. The scholars are involved in community service projects such as highway cleanup, tutoring, mentoring, and assisting with Chamber of Commerce events. 30,000 fund raising letters were sent out to the community last year.

Edina Resource Center - Val Burke

- Requesting \$34,040 (2005 funding is \$33,372)

The mission of the Edina Resource Center is to help families, providers and community organizations get connected quickly and successfully to a continuum of social services and community resources. Specifically, the Center provides a critical link to human services for families and individuals in Edina; assists health and human service professionals in accessing services for their clients; helps families and individuals focus on prevention and early intervention in addressing issues before they become crises; and identifies gaps in services while affecting systemic change.