

Community Relations Commission
April 27, 2005

Present: Jane Stephenson, Chair
David Woolard
Christy Doering
Jene' Brogan
Susan Lavigne

Absent: Victoria Hoyos-Arango
Bob Massengill
Carol Moss

City Council: Scott Johnson

Staff: Bob Buffington, Stacy Brown, Terrie Monroe, Jerry Bradley, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jane Stephenson at 7:07 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2005

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - Community Services Grants

Ms. Stephenson opened the public hearing.

The Turning Point - \$26,000

The first presenter was Ms. Patricia Randall, Executive Director of The Turning Point (Rape Crisis Center of Collin County), who began by explaining why the organization adopted the name by which it is now identified. Ms. Randall thanked the Commission for the generosity extended to The Turning Point, enabling them to provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, education aimed at the prevention of sexual assault, and increasing sensitivity to victims. Their request is for \$26,000 for partial salary of a community educator, continuation of crisis intervention services, operational expenses, supplies and printing. Questions were asked by Commissioners regarding the efforts to maintain the privacy of victims and the exact number of Plano residents served that were victims of sexual assault.

AIDS Services of North Texas - \$25,000

The next presenter was Ms. Suzan Stambaugh, Director of Clinic Services, who stated that the agency has been able to continually serve the ever-increasing number of clients

due to the funding that has been granted them by this Commission over the years. To illustrate how much the need is increasing, Ms. Stambaugh cited intake and service totals for the past two weeks compared to those in January, State statistics on how few of those affected with HIV/AIDS have access to medical care, and the comparison between totals served last year this time and today. Their request is for \$25,000 for partial salary for a nutrition center coordinator, food, medical services, and maintenance costs for the agency van. There were questions posed regarding the number of clients served from Plano, whether any clients had to be turned away, as well as the small amount requested for van maintenance.

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - \$30,000

Sam Prince, Director of Development for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Chris Parks, Managing Attorney of the McKinney office, were the next presenters. Mr. Prince began by citing census statistics reflecting how many persons in the Dallas area live at or below 125% of the federal poverty level and are thus eligible for their agency's services. Mr. Prince went on to say that surveys and statistics reflect that the primary factor in reducing domestic violence is people's access to legal services, and since their agency is the only source that offers free legal services to low income persons, they are requesting \$30,000 to fund part of the salaries/benefits, training/travel, education, research, office supplies, postage, telephone, insurance, and bar dues for staff attorneys. Questions were asked relative to their efforts at recruiting attorneys in Plano to donate pro bono services, how client satisfaction is tracked, why no Plano attorneys are on their Board of Directors, and why only 25% of the current year's grant has been spent. Ms. Stephenson commended the agency on the work that they do in Plano.

Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$20,000

The next presenter was Ms. Lauren Hoofnagle, Regional Director, Collin County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Texas. Ms. Hoofnagle informed the Commission of this agency's mission of providing mentoring relationships for Plano children through referrals from the PISD and single parents. They also mentioned that, since they have merged with Youth Mentor Network, the agency will now also be picking up the mentoring relationship at six years of age. They are requesting \$20,000 for partial salary of executive director, printing, program activities, travel, telephone, mentor appreciation and recognition, rent, insurance, and office supplies. Ms. Stephenson commended Ms. Hoofnagle for the development of the tracking system they have designed and implemented and for the number and quality of Plano citizens on their Board of Directors.

Practical Parent Education - \$14,000

The Practical Parent Education presentation was done by Dr. Lucy Long, Executive Director, and Ms. Juliette Echaniz, their Director of Hispanic Family Services. Dr. Long informed the Commission that the agency is celebrating their 20th year of serving Plano parents with the necessary parenting education, support and referrals to strengthen their families, ensuring healthy development of their children. Their request is for \$14,000 for partial salaries for parent educators and childcare workers and the provision of emergency rental, medical, dental, and clothing assistance and other expenses related to preventive safety needs of young children. Ms. Stephenson acknowledged the dedication of those members of their Board of Directors that she knows personally.

Forrest Outreach Foundation - \$30,000

The next presentation was done by Ms. Kim Kamen, Program Director of Forrest Outreach Foundation, whose purpose is to break the cycle of poverty through the loaning of lap top computers for home use and training low income elementary-aged children and their family members to become computer literate. Ms. Kamen gave the Commission a full history on the founding of the organization in 2000 and its naming. This agency is making their first request for \$30,000 for the partial salaries of two staff members conducting their "Click for Success" program, which is focused on third, fourth, and fifth-graders at Mendenhall, Meadows, and Armstrong schools. The questions asked centered on why lap tops are used instead of PCs, and the criteria used to select the children.

Journey of Hope - \$15,000

Ms. Susan Williams, Executive Director of Journey of Hope Grief Support Center since January of this year, was the next presenter. Ms. Williams informed the Commission that her agency provides grief support to children and their families and thus far, out of 183 youth served, 85 of them were Plano residents. The agency serves more families from Plano than any other city in the county. They are requesting \$15,000 for the partial salaries for an administrative assistant and the executive director, office supplies, program operating expenses, and printing. The questions asked centered around whether there was any other agency in Plano providing similar services, how performance is measured, whether there are any costs for services to families, and whether they collaborate with any other agencies.

Journey Home - \$29,880

The next presenter was Ms. Kitty Spencer, President of the Board of Directors of Journey Home, who informed the Commission that this agency provides hospice care for terminally ill individuals. They opened their doors in October of last year and this is their first request for funds. They collaborate with all of the hospice organizations in the area. With an executive director, one CNA and dedicated volunteers, Journey Home provides 24-hour, 7-day-a-week hospice care for up to six residents that have been given a maximum of six months to live, as well as short-term stays for family members that are caring for terminally ill relatives. They are requesting \$29,880 to partially fund the salary of an Assistant House Manager for weekend admissions and employee management, food expenses, and to subsidize the daily cost of low-income residents having little or no financial means to afford their stay and expenses. Questions posed related to the average stay of residents, whether there was a waiting list, and if there were any plans or space for expansion of the house or the program.

God's Food Pantry - \$25,000

The final presenter was Mr. Roger Sharlow, President of the Board of Directors for God's Food Pantry, an agency that provides food for residents. Since Mr. Sharlow was certain that most of the Commissioners knew of the service that the agency provides, he offered to open the rest of the presentation up for questions from the Commission. They are requesting \$25,000 to be used for rent and utilities, food, gasoline and freight. The questions focused on whether the agency assists clients that don't qualify for other food pantries based on income and how often clients can receive food, how long Mr. Sharlow

had been with the agency, whether the reported numbers served were unduplicated or an indication of number of times served, and the fact that because the City did not receive a report on 2003's grant expenditures, their 2004 funding was not disbursed until March, 2005. Ms. Stephenson expressed concern about the lack of information reported by their agency and information furnished that was not clear concerning the agency supplying another agency with food. Ms. Stephenson also requested that the executive director compose a resume and submit it to the Commission. Stacy Brown said that staff would be happy to provide them with some technical assistance in these areas of concern.

The public hearing was closed.

Report of Scoring Criteria Subcommittee

Ms. Stephenson stated that Carol Moss was scheduled to give the report, but since she was not present she requested that Christy Doering give the report. After Ms. Doering gave her report, Bob Buffington provided input as to how the Commission should submit their scoring sheets to him.

Appointment of Budget Format Subcommittee

This agenda item involved the formation of a subcommittee to design a uniform budget format that would be used by all the agencies that submit grant requests to this Commission. Bob Buffington requested that all ideas and suggestions relative to the format be submitted to him by email.

Items for Future Agendas

Ms. Stephenson stated that she would like to have an item on the next agenda to clarify what an emergency services agency is, for purposes of the Community Services Grant application process. By acclamation, the other members agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Jane Stephenson, Chair