

Community Relations Commission
May 11, 2005

Present: Jane Stephenson, Chair
Victoria Hoyos-Arango
Christy Doering
Susan Lavigne
Bob Masengill
Carol Moss
Jene' Brogan
David Woolard

Absent: None

Staff: Bob Buffington, Terrie Monroe, Stacy Brown

The meeting was opened by Chair Jane Stephenson at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing – Community Services Grants

Ms. Stephenson opened the public hearing.

Assistance Center of Collin County - \$31,250

Jackie Hall, Executive Director of the Assistance Center of Collin County, informed the Commission that her organization answers 25,000 phone calls per year, serves 17,000 people per year, and publishes the Collin County Cares human resource directory. Her request was for a total of \$31,250, which includes phone, utilities, mortgage payments, and partial salary of the Bilingual staff position. Alan Johnson, Development Director, answered questions on the budget and grants.

CASA of Collin County - \$15,275

CASA of Collin County Executive Director, Vicki Magee, explained the mission of the organization is to train volunteers as guardians ad litem for abused and/or neglected children. Last year the organization worked with 528 children in Collin County. Ms. Magee requested \$15,275 for partial salary of a caseworker supervisor, office supplies, occupancy, phone, travel, staff training, and volunteer training. Ms. Magee answered questions concerning the process of receiving a case from the court, training and recruiting volunteers, and working with the Children's Advocacy Center.

Collin County Children's Advocacy Center - \$13,000

Susan Etheridge, Executive Director of the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center, echoed Ms. Magee's concerns about the types of cases they receive and the challenges

of funding. Ms. Etheridge requested \$13,000 for partial funding of a bilingual forensic interviewer, office space, training, and interview supplies. She explained that the number of Spanish speaking-only clients has increased to 20% of their cases. Ms. Etheridge explained the process of receiving a case, the collaborations that are used, and the nature of a forensic interview.

Collin Intervention to Youth - \$26,390

Executive Director Jeanine Alpert, from CITY House, informed the Commission of the two types of facilities that are operated by the organization, the shelter and the transitional living program. Ms. Alpert requested \$26,390 for a volunteer coordinator salary, telephone, utilities, and the replacement of blinds for the shelter; utilities, food, and DART passes for the transitional living program.

Collin County Committee on Aging - \$22,032

The Collin County Committee on Aging Executive Director, Marilyn Stidham, made a presentation requesting week-end meals for the elderly at a cost of \$22,032. She explained that the organization also moves 100,000 people over a million miles per year in the CCART program. In addition, she answered questions regarding the Older Americans Act and the challenge of requesting payment for services from seniors.

Geriatric Wellness Center - \$15,547

Gene Losey, a board member for the Maurice Barnett Geriatric Wellness Center, requested \$14,547 for a copier, health care equipment, and a part-time receptionist. He also informed the group about the increasing numbers of seniors in Collin County, and that the mission of the organization is to help older adults in Collin County achieve the highest level of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. He stated that this means meeting their health care needs and helping them to remain independent. It was suggested that the organization ask Kinko's for a donation of a copier.

Assistance League of Greater Collin County - \$31,000

Fran Baker, President of the Assistance League of Greater Collin County, informed the Commission that "Operation School Bell" provided new clothing and shoes to 752 Plano low-income early childhood and elementary school children last year. The organization assisted 57% more children this year, and the requests keep coming. Ms. Baker requested \$31,000 for clothing and shoe vouchers. She explained that the organization is 100% volunteer. She answered questions concerning student selection.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County - \$20,280

Christina Blanchard, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County, apologized for not attending the CDBG public hearings and for not sending someone else to the presentation. Ms. Blanchard requested \$20,280 for a program coordinator, materials, travel, training, and awards. She answered a question concerning why she spent the funds from 2003-2004 on other items that were not in the contract, and why she did not request a change in her contract. She stated that she got furniture donated that they had intended to purchase with the grant.

Komen North Texas Race for the Cure - \$5,000

Paula Parker, Vice President for the Komen North Texas Race for the Cure, requested \$5,000 for security for the race to be held on June 4, 2005. She explained that the organization provides grants to organizations that serve medically underserved and uninsured men and women for the education, screening, and treatment of breast cancer. The organization had to reject some requests for funding last year. In addition, 25% of the funds go to research to find a cure for breast cancer.

The public hearing was closed.

Emergency Service Provider Definition

The Commission discussed the definition of emergency service provider. Bob Buffington explained that the majority of the emergency service grant funding must go to organizations which provide emergency services. Christy Doering made a proposal for the definition of emergency service provider. The Commission discussed the definition and decided upon the following definition of emergency service provider:

“an agency whose primary mission is to provide short-term urgent care services offering immediate relief of crises impacting the physical and/or mental health of clients. This includes food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.”

Jane Stephenson stated that the next meeting will be May 23, 2004 in Conference Room 2E at 6:00 p.m. There was a motion and a second to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Jane Stephenson, Chair

