

APPROVED ON _____ APRIL 19, 2007 _____

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CAC MEETING**

MARCH 6, 2007

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Nancy Emerson, Bob Layton, Lynne Langley

Absent: Algene Bailey (called), Jean Pecunies (called), Stephen Lichtenstein (called), William Thorpe, Dani Rooney (called)

Staff: David Moore, Program Manager

Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and recognized David Moore who reviewed the schedule for the CDBG Public Service Agency presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Stefanie Crystal, Director Client Services. Ms. Crystal began her presentation by noting that the agency is currently serving 106 clients. She emphasized that the agency has been experiencing deep cuts in its federal funding. She explained that the funding distributed to New Hampshire by the City of Boston Public Health Department is set to decrease by \$120,000. She said New Hampshire has received a disproportionate amount of funding compared to its percentage of total AIDS cases and that the agency distributing federal AIDS funding, known as Ryan White Act funds, made the decision to end this level of support. She noted that the State of New Hampshire does not provide AIDS funding and that recently a new Senate Bill had been proposed to create a funding stream for AIDS programming. Meanwhile, Ms. Crystal indicated that the agency has increased its fundraising efforts through planned giving and the establishment of an endowment. She stressed that this was a particularly difficult year for the agency and asked that the full grant request be granted. Chairperson Emerson thanked Ms. Crystal for her presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Frank Nappo, YMCA Executive Director, who spoke about the YMCA ACCESS subsidy program. He explained increased membership costs to cover increasing operational liabilities directly affect the need for the subsidy program. Mr. Nappo indicated that the access program is important for individuals and families who would not otherwise be able to join for-profit fitness facilities. He also stated that the YMCA has been forced to decrease programming for swimming lessons due to decreased private foundational support. He hoped that the YMCA would be able to increase its governmental funding to be able to continue this program. Chairperson Emerson thanked Mr. Nappo for his presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Michelle Colgan, Finance Manager of A Safe Place, a domestic violence and abuse shelter which serves towns in Strafford and Rockingham Counties except for those towns that border the Manchester area. Ms. Colgan indicated that a new Executive Director was scheduled to begin work by

April 1, 2007. Ms. Colgan emphasized that the agency operates the only 24-hour emergency shelter in the region and indicated that the agency had received a \$16,000 cut in funding from the United Way. She said the agency had a deficit last year, but new fundraisers an increase of 10% in the annual appeal and a new spring appeal would help the agency overcome the funding shortfall. She indicated that shelter maintenance was becoming an issue for the agency. In particular, she noted the roof was in need of work. Chairperson Emerson thanked Ms. Colgan for her presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Deborah Anthony, Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast. Ms. Anthony generally described how the agency matches adult mentors with at risk children. She reported that the agency was successful in relocating its offices to Portsmouth where she said the agency receives governmental and community investment and support. She explained that the agency recently expanded to include a program for children with disabilities known as Sylvia's Project and said that Portsmouth residents were benefiting from this program. She explained that a new corporate sponsor program had provided the agency with additional funding in addition to Big Sister and Big Brother volunteers. She said the agency had benefited from in-kind marketing services and that the agency added new board members. Chairperson Emerson thanked Ms. Anthony for her presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Bill Chausse, Vice President of Child and Family Services. He spoke in support of the agency's Family Counseling Program, which is located in the Seybolt Building and provides counseling services to Portsmouth families. Mr. Chausse emphasized that the agency particularly benefits from the reputation of the counselor assigned to the Portsmouth office. He spoke about the agency's strategy to teach clients skills for dealing with life's situations and how this approach allows the agency to have an impact beyond the interactions with the counselor. He said that the agency works with individuals and families to benefit children even if children are not direct recipients of the counseling. Chairperson Emerson thanked Mr. Chausse for his presentation.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Paul Fitzpatrick, Assistant Director of SeaCare Health Services, who spoke in support of SeaCare's Health Access Component. He explained that SeaCare secures free doctors appointments from area physicians and specialists to assist the uninsured. He said that physicians' offices like to work with SeaCare because they identify bona fide clients in need of medical services. However, he indicated that the agency has felt the impact of the trend of primary care physicians leaving that form of medical practice. He said the agency is working to recruit additional physicians' offices to participate in the program. He pointed out that SeaCare's services are different from Families First because Families First provides direct care as a community health center and SeaCare provides referrals to physician's participating in the program. Mr. Fitzpatrick indicated that the agencies own insurance premium increased 40% from the previous year. Chairperson Emerson thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick for his presentation.