MEETING MINUTES
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013, 7:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - LORRAINE MORTON CIVIC CENTER
2100 RIDGE AVE., EVANSTON, ILLINOIS


Members Absent: M.  Lacy, S.  Opdycke, J.  Vlahogiannis,

Staff Present: S.  Flax, M.  Muenzer, B.  Newman

Presiding Member:  Ald.  Rainey, Chair

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM
There being a quorum, Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Chair Rainey announced that this is the first proposal review meeting for the Community Development Block Grant distribution of funds for 2014.  She added that it is not being televised live, but will be broadcast the following day.

Ald.  Rainey asked that the applicants state their names and contact information for anyone wanting to donate or utilize their services.

2014 CDBG PROGRAM—REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

1. Youth Job Center for Evanston, Inc. /Youth Employment Programs
   1114 Church St., Evanston, IL 847-864-5627 www.youthjobcenter.org

Sacella Smith, Executive Director, thanked the Committee for considering her requests for the past 8 years, adding that the Youth Job Center (Y. J. C.) has reached its 30 year milestone of fulfilling their mission, which is more relevant than ever, to provide 14-25 year olds with success in the workplace through training and partnerships with employers.  They teach responsibility and accountability; not entitlement.  Clients served include ex-offenders, the homeless and those with learning disabilities.  They partner with the Moran Center, the City’s Youth Services Division and Youth Organizations Umbrella.

Ms. Smith explained that one of the organization’s goals is to fill the gap in opportunities and skill levels in one of the worst economies for employment.  They have served 1,585 youth in their Core Services and Career Pathways program for 18-26 year olds with criminal backgrounds, homelessness, and other disadvantages, in the Evanston Skokie and Niles area.
They continue to offer their Tech Center to provide computer usage to the community at large.

Ms. Smith said the Board of Directors continues to fund-raise intensely and they are working to reduce the need for public support they currently rely heavily on. They have strengthened their tracking and reporting capabilities to monitor clients’ progress using data such as wage progression and educational attainment.

Chair Rainey commented that years ago Y. J. C. did not have the reputation it has today but today it has become a model for the work they do. She commended Ms. Smith.

At Chair Rainey’s inquiry, Ms. Smith said they obtained 20 hires from Trader Joe’s, some full time, mostly part time for many clients who are high school students.

Ms. Sanke thanked her for Y. J. C.’s good work and said she had recommended Y. J. C. to the owner of a company and they could not thank her enough for the many qualified people.

In response to Ms. Sanke’s inquiry about the projection of those served for 2014 being lower than those served in 2013, Ms. Smith agreed that it is a conservative estimate. They received a Summer Youth Employment grant and they are building more robust programs and focusing more on the Career Pathways program. The youth are getting credentials through internships and education, such as OSHA certifications and CDLs.

Ms. Smith announced that on November 19, 2013, in partnership with Evanston High School (ETHS) and Oakton Community College, they will have a Career Expo at ETHS. A press release will be published closer to November 19th.

Chair Rainey thanked her for Y. J. C.’s good work.

2. Housing Options for the Mentally Ill/I-Work

1132 Florence, Evanston
847-866-6144 www.housingopt.org mmcfarland@housingopt.org

Mathew McFarland, Director of Workforce Development and Amy Tran, Program Coordinator, thanked the Committee and explained that their program called I-WORK (Individuals Welcoming Opportunity for Responsibility and Knowledge) was developed in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration at Dartmouth College, to help individuals with mental illness find and keep gainful employment. Their model has produced outcomes at nearly triple those of traditional approaches when followed accurately, resulting in employment rates of 58% versus 21% of clients that achieve employment in other programs. Mr. McFarland explained that they are different from the other programs because they provide support to employers of clients as well as to the clients themselves to help with job transitions. They discover what is important to the client and help place them in the appropriate job. Their organization was the sole organization from Illinois to be nominated, of 39 organizations nationwide, for the National Transformation Award.
Their program holds quarterly family support groups with family and friends of their clients to help them learn to better support their loved one and help him/her to continue to work.

Mr. McFarland said there has been in increase in the need for assistance for people with substance abuse and incarceration among their clientele.

Ms. Tran gave an example of a man who was working one day a week as an administrative assistant but had educational background and was very interested in working in early Childhood Education, for which he had received support from another program and an internship. He turned down the first job in child care offered to him through the program but took another job working in a program in the local school district and he is enjoying it. He has gotten great evaluations and they are likely to add another position for him. He checks in with “Housing Options” regularly.

Mr. McFarland said they are “doing more with less” and that they collaborate with 3 other non-profits, two of which are in Evanston; Peer Services and the Center for Independent Futures, to ensure that they do not duplicate services. They have formed the Northside Workforce Development Alliance (NWDA) which includes Trilogy and Thresholds, and meets monthly to ensure that they are not sharing clients and not knocking on the same doors of employers. This helps more people to get hired and allows them to focus on and form better relationships with employers who include Misericordia, Food 4 Less, Marshall’s, Turning Point, Target and Walmart.

Mr. McFarland added that Housing Options measures qualitatively with a participant survey. Mr. McFarland is a member of the Illinois Fidelity Review Team.

At Ms. Sanke’s inquiry, Mr. McFarland said he would provide the percentage of Evanston residents projected to be served in 2014 as there was conflicting information in the application.

Ald. Burrus personally thanked them for all they do. Mr. McFarland said their success is difficult to measure but when their clients get a job, it makes a huge difference in their clients’ lives and gives them a reason to live. He said the right to work is a right everyone should have and they are trying to level the playing field.

Chair Rainey thanked them.

3. Interfaith Action of Evanston/Employment Counseling 1509 Ridge, Evanston 847-869-0370 ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org
Sue Murphy, Executive Director, explained that the organization is 95% volunteer. Monday through Friday they serve breakfast and provide job counseling, bus passes, help with resumés, clothes for a job interview, a personal voice mailbox and email where a potential employer can leave a message and computer training for the homeless. They partner with Connections for the Homeless to provide jobs and
Many of their clients have felonies and other challenges that impair their ability to find employment. Some local restaurants have been hiring and one client recently got a job at the North Shore Retirement Hotel washing dishes, which was perfect for him because he did not feel comfortable dealing with the public. Other clients have gotten work driving a school bus, at both Evanston hospitals and at Trader Joe’s. When it is very cold, Interfaith provides emergency overnight shelter for the homeless. They have been providing fresh fruits and vegetables for 400 families per month in partnership with the Chicago Food Depository. People can go there and pick up groceries; there is nothing required of participants.

Chair Rainey thanked her.

4. Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

**Baby Toddler Nursery Refurbishment**

2200 Main Street 847-491-9650 www.iwse.org jenniferriskind@iwse.org

Cass Wolfe, Executive Director, said it has been a number of years since their organization has applied for assistance. Their Baby-Toddler Center is on Main Street, they have a Teen Baby Nursery at Family Focus and a Home Visiting Family Support Program. She said they are in dire need of extra space at the 2200 Main Street location, where people are working in closets and they lost $33,000 in funding this year. Ms. Wolf explained that the funding request for refurbishment is related to health and safety issues. They have seventy children under five, fifty six of whom are under three including babies six weeks of age so the place must always be safe. There are wood chips on the playground, which need to be replaced with a special turf designed for children’s safety in play areas.

Ms. Wolf said they are celebrating their 100th year. They were founded in 1913 by a group of women to serve lower income families. They supplied pasteurized milk and opened clinics. They have a long history of collaborating with the City and they look forward to continuing this collaboration.

Ms. Sanke asked whether they obtained multiple bids aside from the three bids for the project, to which Ms. Wolf replied that her understanding is that they are required to get one bid, but their own fiscal policy requires three bids for projects over $1,000.

At Ald. Holmes’ inquiry, Ms. Wolf explained that they do have $6,000 budgeted for maintenance. They replaced the washing machine a few months ago and they need to repair a hole in the roof before winter. They use the maintenance money to pave their driveway and parking spaces. Ms. Wolf explained that having a building that was opened in 1978 means there is much maintenance. Ald. Holmes agreed. Ms. Wolf said they painted all classrooms in the past few years and re-did the floors last winter, and they would love the opportunity to share those costs with someone. Chair Rainey said that some of those are capital costs.

Chair Rainey thanked Ms. Wolf.

5. Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago-NW IN/Healthy Living Initiative
Lavinia Owens, Branch Strategist for Cook County, introduced Joann Avery, Program Facilitator for Evanston Girl Scouts, and explained that since merging in 2008 with other Girl Scout Councils, they started going beyond cookie sales to form community engagement programs for girls of low income families. The Community Engagement Programs are Healthy Living Initiative, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship. It is for these programs that they seek funding from the government and various other sources. In Evanston, the Healthy Living Initiative Program is provided. Currently they serve girls ages 5-17, most of whom live in the 5th Ward, from low to moderate income families. Last year they served 130 girls with a goal of 75. In 2014, they are proposing to serve 80 girls. They have been conservative in their projections. Although they have had structural changes in Girl Scouts, they continue to offer the Healthy Living Initiative programs in Evanston. All of the programs have three key goals: to help the girls discover themselves, connect with others and take action to create positive change in their community. Healthy Living goals are to help the girls develop knowledge and skills to lead healthier lives, increase exercise, improve nutritional choices, and improve body image. They have a school-grade-appropriate curriculum and they have established indicators to measure impact, including pre and post assessments. Their fiscal year is from October 1st to September 30th, however, Ms. Avery assessed the girls so far this fiscal year with the following outcome: 97% of the girls completed at least 20 minutes of physical activity during sessions, 75% identified activities that are healthy for their bodies, 90% set fitness goals and 94% obtained cooperation and teambuilding skills.

Joann Avery related the story of a 7th grade girl scout who received the diagnosis that she is morbidly obese, weighing over 250 lbs, and attended the group with a social worker’s permission. She stayed in the hall and listened to everything Ms. Avery discussed with the group including moving for 15-20 minutes, food pyramid and food labels. She said she only eats fruits and vegetables at school but she is determined to get healthy. Kids make fun of her about her weight and odor. She has lost 7 lbs. since participating in the group. She walks everywhere and is currently participating in gym class, which she was not doing prior to coming to Girl Scouts. Her goals are to look and feel pretty for her 8th grade graduation, which is this year, to have friends and to be smaller. Ms. Avery said she told her that she is already beautiful. She said she tells the girls all the time that they are all beautiful. They are 6th and 7th graders that say their hips are too big. She didn’t want the young lady to think that just because she is overweight she isn’t beautiful. Ms. Avery purchased an exercise walking tape and a DVD player for her and she has reported that she has been using it every morning and every night for 15 minutes all summer. This tape alone has made a great impact on her life. She comes to the group faithfully and waits by the door to discuss how her weekend went. She still hasn’t made friends but she is trying. She is making healthy choices now and it is important to work with the parents because her mother is a big contributor to what the young lady eats. Her mother is overweight too.

Ms. Avery said she works with the girls to teach them to eat right and to teach them about the nutrients in fruits and vegetables. They took a tour of a grocery store and Ms.
Avery showed them how to find the contents on the labels such as sodium, and they learned of avocados and eggplants, and the importance of drinking water. The girls have had to invent physically active games; they jump rope and play hopscotch, do jumping jacks and have lost inches. Ms. Avery said she has enjoyed working with the girls for over 10 years and some have come back and volunteered to help. They have had a chef demonstrate how to make smoothies, turkey burgers and taught them what tofu is, and Campus Kitchen did a presentation. Chair Rainey suggested she call “Now We’re Cookin’”, an Evanston organization.

Ms. Sanke asked whether they had considered following the girls long term, to which Ms. Owens replied that they have a system to gather data from high schools to help them find out what college the girls have gone to, their graduation date, etc.

Ald Holmes said the Girl Scouts are lucky to have Ms. Avery and commended her for her work, adding that Ms. Avery has been working with Family Focus for years.

Chair Rainey asked whether other municipalities contribute to the funding of the programs, to which Ms. Owens replied that other communities do not contribute and the funding helped to keep the program in Evanston from being cut.

The Committee took a break.

6. Evanston Scholars/College Readiness
1234 Sherman, Suite 213, Evanston
www.evanstonscholars.org

Steve Newman, Founder of Evanston Scholars, introduced Kay Israelite, Development Director and Mentor, and explained that this is their 3rd year in operation. They are a college-readiness and support program, assisting ambitious, first generation, low income youth to graduate from college. They serve 11th grade through college graduation. They offer mentors, college visits, ACT prep, and one on one college counseling. There are 49 participants: 10 college sophomores, 14 college freshmen and 25 high school seniors; all from ETHS; 96% are minorities and 80% are free and reduced lunch recipients at ETHS; 76% will be the first in their families to attend college. They expect to have 74 participants in the near future.

They started the program because studies say that if a student graduates college, they will earn $1.2 million more over their lifetime than one who does not. Health benefits and living longer are also benefits of college grads. ETHS has a 90-95% graduation rate however nationally 20% of students who plan to go to college actually do not go. The national drop out rate is 50%, and even higher for the population they serve. 75% of those who drop out do so within the first 2 years, so they try to ease the transition. Some agencies at ETHS, such as the counselors and college career staff, also provide some of these services, however they only take students that come to them and the counselors have over 250 students each, so individualized college counseling is hard to come by. Y.O.U. does similar things but don’t stay with the students once they have entered college. One of the reasons students drop out is because they do not find schools that are a good fit, so Evanston Scholars tries to find colleges that are a good fit.
with the help of a one on one mentor plus workshops such as financial aid, essay boot camp and transition. They also provide college counseling. They have a program director, a program counselor for high school and college students, and a development director, plus volunteers.

Mr. Newman explained that they take their participants on college visits. They took them to Augustana, a great, small, private school in Illinois that does a good job of giving away a ton of money to students like theirs. They also take them to bigger schools such as Iowa and they have taken them to Illinois Wesleyan. In October, their students are first in line with applications, as they apply to 5 schools. Next week they will already have applied to 5 schools, which will put them ahead of 99% of applicants. Nationally, most students apply to an average of 2-3 schools; their students have applied to 9 schools on average.

Mr. Newman said that Evanston Scholars has joined forces with Revolution Prep, which is an outside agency that helps students prepare for ACT tests. Their 25 students increased their test scores by 3 points on average. For their range, a 3 point difference will be the difference between a half ride and a full ride.

Impact thus far is college persistence: 100% are still at school; some have transferred. One student at Indiana found out there was a $15,000 shortfall from her family; as soon as she found out she mentioned it to her mentor and within a week and had made arrangements to transfer to another school for her last 2 years.

Evanston Scholars used to have scholarships but are discontinuing them because they are allocating their money towards emergencies. 80% (11 out of 14) went to college on full scholarships. They are asking specifically for funds to work with Revolution Prep so they can improve the service they provide by getting their students higher scores in order to obtain more scholarship funding.

Chair Rainey said they are very impressive. At her inquiry, Mr. Newman explained that they have over 200 individual donors and this year they've had an 80% increase from years 1 and 2. In the beginning it was through solicitation, but now more people are finding out about their program.

At Chair Rainey's inquiry about how their college tours work, Mr. Newman explained that they got up at 5:15, got a bus donated by Best Taxi through Hecky Powell and a program was set up by the college for the students when they arrived. They were able to sit in on mock classes, do a tour and talk to professors, and get the feel for the college. 24 students and a few mentors and parents participated in the trip to Augustana that day. They go on 3-4 hour trips. They went to Iowa just so they could see a big school, though none are matriculated there.

At Ald. Hansen’s inquiry of how much they work with the participants’ parents to support the students through college, Mr. Newman explained that they have a parents’ workshop, a parent stress support group and a parent advisory counselor. The parents
of the 10 who have started their sophomore year in college have stayed engaged. The parents of the 14 freshmen are engaged and want to stay engaged.

Chair Rainey thanked them.

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy/Legal & Social Services 847-492-1410
1123 Emerson, at Emerson & Ridge, 2nd flr www.moran-center.org

Kathy Lyons, Executive Director, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to be present and introduced Roger Pascal, a long time Board Member. Ms. Lyons explained that the Moran Center’s work is representing, restoring and redirecting struggling youth in Evanston. They represent them in court as well as school discipline and special education matters. They have provided more than 30 years of integrated legal and social work. They now serve children of all ages in special education in grades pre K through high school, a rapidly growing area as families hear about how they can advocate for struggling students to get them into the programs they need. They now have programs teaching children to be more successful. Three programs are:

1) VIP (Violence Intervention and Prevention) at ETHS and expanding into District 65 middle schools, is an alternative to suspension; children learn problem solving and resolution skills to avoid future disciplinary problems; students who complete the program either have their suspensions waived or reduced so they spend less time out of school

2) Diversion Program within the City’s administrative hearings system: youth who are convicted of the marijuana ordinance violation can do community service or community service plus counseling in lieu of a fine; they have had over 100 participants with an 85% success rate with the greater success in those who receive counseling. The community service connects them to their community.

3) P2 (Partnership for Peace) is to address poor relations between officers of the law and at-risk teenage boys; some participants were referred by the police, some were clients of the Moran Center. They had 5 bi-monthly events: the first hour was a fun activity, for example, bowling; the second hour was a discussion facilitated by a professional about trust, what it is like to be a teen/what it is like to be an officer in Evanston. Discussions were open and frank and respectful and it improved communications and relationships between them. The Moran Center has secured another grant to continue this program.

All of the Moran Center’s programs build connections for clients in other ways. They work in collaboration with the Summer Youth Employment Program, PEER Services, Family Focus, the YMCA and others and they are very grateful to have those resources for their clients. For many Evanston youth, the Moran Center is a last stop before prison and they provide a life line to those who need help the most. In addition to providing access to legal representation and advocacy, the City’s investment is a wise investment for the City as it costs $70,000 to $120,000 to incarcerate a child in Evanston. There are dismal statistics for children who drop out of high school, and even worse for those who go to prison.
Ms. Lyons thanked the Committee for their support.

Chair Rainey asked regarding the proliferation of the potential violence in younger children, how they could engage the Moran Center to address this problem. Ms. Lyons said they will serve anyone. They like to engage with those families through the schools. Many times if a child is having trouble in the community, they are having trouble in school. They can help them with the opportunity to participate in after school programs.

Ms. Sanke added that they cannot always identify which children they are. They just have many at the elementary level who do not have good modeling for conflict resolution and they are seeing culture conflicts. They want to find a proactive approach to address this. Ms. Lyons said the Moran Center received a grant from the Woman’s Club of Evanston to fund offering the VIP program in the middle schools in the 2014-2015 school year. The skills can be taught much earlier than high school and District 65 has been very open and receptive to them moving into middle school. Ms. Lyons said she will run a pilot at Haven this year. Then they will roll out to as many schools as District 65 would like, subsequently. If it results in less disciplinary actions with fewer sent to the principal’s office, they would be delighted. They also want to expand their P2 program to younger children. This year participants were ages 15-18; they would like to start at age 13. High school is too late.

Ald. Braithwaite asked that Chair Rainey and Ms. Sanke contact the principal at Oakton School regarding the violence of the younger children they were referring to in order to determine if they are enrolled in District 65, as they may be from Oakton.

Ald. Braithwaite noted that the annual cost to incarcerate a child is from $70,000 to $120,000 per year, per child for Cook County versus approximately $16,000 for high school. He commended the Moran Center on their fund raising and growth and asked how engaged is the Board of Directors to which Ms. Lyons asked Mr. Pascal, who has been on the Board for several years, to respond. He explained that they started with professional funding trainers and focused on individual contributions to get people used to giving, adding that it is not a hard sell because everyone is impacted by their service. Ms. Lyons explained that in the first interface with the juvenile justice system, if a child winds up in the judicial system, his odds of having a successful life are diminished; it is important that we make the first outcome a good one. If it isn’t, the odds are bad.

Chair Rainey said back when this organization started, they were completely dependent on the City and the government. Ms. Hansen commended them saying they embody restorative justice and the Moran Center has done a great job with making it a reason for people to buy into it.

Chair Rainey thanked them.
On behalf of the Committee, Chair Rainey expressed sympathy for the loss of Bill Kolen, the long-time Director of the Evanston office, who passed away this year. Chair Rainey remembered him standing at the podium for years with fabulous presentations and how humble he was when they had to move to downtown Chicago. She said he really made it all happen.

Ald. Holmes said that when she first started Family Focus in 1976, when “Billy” was in high school, he was very good friends with Rick Weissbourd and they were her first two volunteers. They helped her clean up Miller School. They often joked about it when she became an Alderman and he became the Director of LAF.

Ms. Cynthia Sadkin, Director of Community Services, thanked Ald. Holmes for the story and thanked the Committee for their condolences. She said they are still grieving the loss of Bill Kolen; he was the face of Legal Services in Evanston and she has big shoes to fill.

Ms. Sadkin explained that LAF’s intake lines are open weekdays at 8:00 a.m. and it is best to call in early and request a call back rather than wait on hold. LAF provides free legal services in non-criminal matters to people living in poverty, seniors, veterans, homeowners at risk of foreclosure and other vulnerable groups. Their intake staff speak English, Spanish and Polish and they provide free interpreters for any other language. For almost 40 years, they operated out of several neighborhood offices including Evanston, until they consolidated into a downtown Chicago office almost 2 years ago and closed their neighborhood offices. However, they continue to serve Evanston residents through their central intake line, they have a help desk at the Skokie Courthouse and the Community Engagement Unit which conducts “know your rights” workshops and Community workshops on a range of topics such as legal rights for survivors of domestic violence, consumer protection, tenants’ rights and foreclosure. They have been invited by the Evanston Public Library to do a series of presentations later this month and they offered 5 workshops at the YWCA last year and will do 4 more this year.

LAF is also seeking to establish direct referral relationships with community organizations in Evanston so when these organizations’ clients have a legal problem they have a fast track to LAF services. Though the number of Evanston residents served by LAF declined last year, they believe the community engagement plan and development of the strategic referral relationship will be effective corrections to the decline. In addition to building upon their existing relationships with the YWCA and other service providers, they are actively cultivating relationships with other organizations, some of whom they connected with at last week’s Community Picnic, where they distributed 700 brochures to Evanston residents. Their services range from legal advice and counseling to negotiation to full representation in court and administrative hearings, appeals in state and federal court.

So far this year their professional groups have achieved the following:
• Public Benefits Practice Group obtained a waiver of $125,000 social security overpayment including reimbursement of $30,000 in benefits wrongly recouped from their clients.
• Children and Families Group obtained a divorce for an Evanston citizen that included alimony which doubles her social security income as well as getting her a portion of her ex-husband’s pension.
• Housing Practice Group prevented the eviction of a Section 8 Housing Choice voucher holder who lives with her 87 year old mother and two grandchildren.
• Consumer Practice Group saved a family home where they lived for more than 15 years from foreclosure and obtained a payout amount, almost $200,000 less than the amount claimed by the lender.

Ms. Sadkin reported that more than 250 Evanston residents have been impacted by their services so far this year, whether they’ve received extensive legal advice or have been saved from a $200,000 debt, each benefited from the substantial experience of a full time staff of attorneys and paralegals. Ms. Sadkin concluded that LAF is the only agency that can provide comprehensive free legal services to Evanston residents and they respectfully seek further support to continue to provide these services.

Chair Rainey asked how the City would make people aware of LAF’s Help Desk at the Skokie Courthouse, to which Ms. Sadkin replied that the Help Desk is for eviction defense for tenants only and it is on Friday mornings because that is when evictions are heard at the Skokie Courthouse. Their website does include information on where their Help Desks are. They hand out a flyer that says where to get free legal help at the courthouse that includes help Desk information and every time they meet with any organization, they let them know the various ways they can get in touch with LAF.

Chair Rainey asked if she were a tenant and she called Senior Services or the City of Evanston and needed legal advice in relation to eviction, whether those agencies tell them about the Help Desk. Ms. Sadkin said she does not know whether agencies tell their clients about LAF. Chair Rainey said she should find out whether they do because a tenant may not know about LAF, and most wait until it’s too late. Ms. Sadkin said in their outreach efforts they will focus on making sure that the word gets out because they want to provide all the resources they can. Ms. Sadkin explained that the number of clients from Evanston had gone down, which surprised them because suburban client number overall has not gone down percentage-wise. Perhaps this is because they had an office in Evanston and they did not have offices in the other suburbs. They realize they need to do more to make it known that their services are still available to Evanston. They have good relations with the YWCA, with Connections and with Kathy Lyons, who refers clients to them. The North Shore Senior Center has invited them to speak to their case managers and they will make sure that they tell their clients, so they will continue to get the word out. Chair Rainey suggested that when people call other agencies for information, especially regarding housing issues, it is not only her opinion, but based on facts, they are getting bad information. The Landlord Tenant Ordinance is being misinterpreted and not being fully explained and there are provisions that are not mentioned. Ms. Sadkin agreed that it is very important to ask
service providers to give their clients information on consumer rights. They currently give consumer rights presentations to service provider and clients, each geared toward the particular group. Their Community Engagement Unit is looking for every way to get information out, how to make sustainable connections, and they may do clinics to teach people how to write a conditions letter or how to get a security deposit back. They are going to ask organizations what needs they are seeing for their clients and how LAF can best serve them. Their strategy is to rely on other organizations to get their information out and to get information from them so they know how best to help.

Chair Rainey thanked her and said the Committee’s thoughts are with her.

North Shore Senior Center/Case Management for LMI Seniors 847-864-3721
840 Dodge  www.nssc.org  egordon@northshoreseniorcenter.org

Liz Gordon, Director of North Shore Senior Center, explained that they serve North Shore seniors and their families, with offices in Evanston, and they have 2,800 clients, many of whom are the most vulnerable in the community.

Ms. Gordon explained that Jordan Luhr could not be there but he had sent his comments. Mr. Luhr had said payment timeliness from the State has improved; they were running 6-9 months late and up to $1 million but now it is improving. They are in the throes of putting in place elements of the Affordable Care Act for Medicaid clients, and starting in January for Medicare clients. They are working very closely with the insurance companies that are involved. It is quite challenging to them, to the State and to the managed care organizations, but they all have wanted affordable care so it is worth the effort. She said Jordan and their colleagues are very worried about the real prospect that there will be a reduction in the amount of funds for the most vulnerable seniors who are not on Medicaid: 20% of their clients, who would lose their services. To address that concern, they are revving up the development end of what they do in terms of donations and grants and also considering a fee for service piece.

She told a story of an 81 year old female client who had lived in Evanston for many years and had been admitted to a local hospital following a fall. The injury luckily wasn’t serious and she was discharged home. The Choices for Care Program case manager, called the office because she was very concerned about her based on what she saw. She made the referral to the Evanston Social Services office and provided the information to the intake coordinator, who completed the NAPIS intake form (National Aging Person’s Information System): She was frail, living alone with no family or friends, her spouse, whom she had depended on for much of her care, had passed away unexpectedly 7 months ago and she was in the throes of grief and having difficulty seeking help; the case worker obtained her consent to be referred to their organization, and a case manager visited her and did the 21 page assessment, in which she discovered that the client had high blood pressure, arthritis, weight loss and had become isolated and having difficulty adjusting after being married for 60 years. The case manager arranged for home delivered meals and grocery shopping to improve nutrition, provided grief counseling, installed bath bars, smoke detectors and an emergency notification device, and transportation to activities at the Levy Center to
Ms. Gordon said they appreciate all the CDBG funds they receive.

At Ald. Holmes inquiry, Ms. Gordon said they are connecting their clients with the Erie Health Center, when appropriate, but Erie doesn’t take Medicare and does not do home visits. She said they are connecting their clients with every resource they can find.

Chair Rainey thanked her.

Meals At Home/Home-Delivered Meals mealsathome@sbcglobal.net
PO Box 279, Wilmette; 847-251-6827 www.mealsathome.org

Chair Rainey asked Ms. Carlson to assure the Committee that the program would not fall apart after she leaves. Ms. Carlson thanked her and said she will keep an eye on it. She said the newsletter may have made its readers aware of volunteers who they did not know volunteered for Meals At Home.

Patricia Carlson, Executive Director of Meals at Home, thanked the Committee for considering their request and explained that since October 9th, 1968, they provide food to clients of all ages who have difficulty shopping, cooking or planning nutritious meals because of health problems or frailty. They will also provide food for a family member who is caring for one of their clients. They bring 2 meals low in fat, salt and cholesterol, a cold lunch and a hot dinner at noon, 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday, including holidays. Clients choose their delivery days and pay only for the days they get food. Meals are provided mainly by St. Francis and Evanston Hospitals; 3 Crowns park provides for up to 20 clients on Mondays; January through May, clients can order soup and sandwiches from Captain Nemo’s on Wednesdays and clients who have won their drawing receive gourmet meals from Jilly’s Café on Thursdays. They have a friendly visit program and the relationships work well. They also provide a grocery shopping program open to meal recipients 3 days a week. Their 70 volunteers deliver to Wilmette, Winnetka, Kenilworth, East Glenview, Evanston and East Northfield. Of their 106 clients, 75 live in Evanston, with a total budget of $168,000 a year. They offer food for general diets and at least 8 special diets. This year, they have arranged with the Hillside and New Trier food pantries from which grocery shoppers can pick up free food for clients. Through their client survey, they have a satisfaction rating of 4.8 on a range of 5 points. It only takes a phone call to start delivery. Clients pay a fee, which is reduced on a sliding scale for 65% of them; average reduced fee is $3.70 for one delivery of 2 meals, which is less than half of their full fee. Meals at Home was awarded 13 grants last year and 53% of their contributions were from individual donors. Ms. Carlson said grant money from CDBG will help subsidize Evanston clients with low income. Recently an Evanston client thanked them and said she feels very well taken care of and loved.
Ms. Carlson announced that December 31st will be Ms. Carlson’s last day with Meals at Home. A search committee is looking for a replacement for her.

Chair Rainey thanked Ms. Carlson for the good work and said she has done an amazing job. She said one of the great things is that the volunteers can get into a home where others cannot get in, and find things that would not otherwise have been discovered. Ms. Carlson thanked the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting of the Housing & Community Development Act Committee is scheduled for **7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2013 in City Council Chambers; this will be the second of three 2014 CDBG application review meetings** and outside agencies mostly capital projects and a few public services will be reviewed. On the third and final review meeting on September 18th, 2013, the City of Evanston applications will be reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Newman