

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 24, 1982

PRESENT

M. Schmidt, Chairman  
G. Roccapriore  
S. Leinwand  
B. Adams  
J. Marino  
C. Giuliano  
J. Botti  
M. Moroni  
L. Abbot  
I. Howell  
J. Fraulino  
W. Oliver  
J. Walters

ALSO PRESENT

M. Stella  
M. Farbman  
M. Masselli

ABSENT

D. Davignon  
J. Reynolds  
M. Taylor

The Citizens Advisory Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 1982 at the Municipal Building in Room 208.

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Information Form

The Chairman reviewed the form distributed to the membership that could be used as a scorecard which identified in columnar form the following information: 1) Agency name and program; 2) Total amount requested; 3) The amount of the new request or the increase over the current City appropriation; 4) The increased amount expressed as a percent of the current City appropriation; 5) The request expressed as a percent of the applicant's total budget; 6) A blank column to enter notes; and, 7) The last column to enter the CAC member's recommendation.

Procedure

Several alternatives were considered by the CAC to determine guidelines for evaluating the applications to arrive at Committee recommendation to the Common Council and the Mayor.

The Chairman announced that two of the three Councilmembers would have to leave early to attend another meeting. The three Councilpersons had decided to not cast votes at this meeting. The Chairman asked that CAC members connected in any way with an applying agency abstain from voting on that particular agency request.

The Committee was informed that it did not seem appropriate to include Maternal and Child Health Services in the application submitted by the Visiting Nurse and Home Health Services of Greater Middletown, since proposed State legislation mandating these services appears imminent.

A motion was made by Ms. Howell to fund all the agencies at the amounts requested. Second to the motion was made by Mr. Oliver. Councilman Leinwand urged the CAC to accept their responsibility to take time to make conscious decisions or their cause will be lost. At this time, Councilmembers Roccapriore and Leinwand excused themselves to attend another meeting. A vote was taken on the motion which was defeated with nine members voting No.

The Committee reached a consensus of agreement to review and to vote on each application request in the same random schedule of presentations.

1. Community Health Center - \$30,000

Mr. Moroni, Ms. Abbot, Atty. Marino and Mr. Walters spoke on behalf of The Community Health Center's request for the following reasons: the need for a battered women's shelter is well documented; the community needs the Center's medical services; the amount of the request is reasonable; and, there is no previous funding to use as a base.

Motion to fund the Community Health Center at \$30,000 made by Mr. Moroni. Second by Atty. Marino. The motion was passed unanimously with eight members voting Aye, Ms. Abbot abstained from voting.

2. Middlesex Memorial Hospital Community Mental Health Clinic - \$31,446

Atty. Marino observed that his notes indicate this program would not be affected by Federal and State cutbacks. The Chairman commented that cuts in Federal third party payments could have an impact on client reimbursements. Atty. Marino indicated that this program does not rank as high in priority in the needs of the various groups being considered. Mr. Walters suggested that the presenter did not adequately defend the increase in the request over previous funding. The Committee also cited budgetary constraints.

Motion to fund the MMH Community Mental Health Clinic at \$20,000, representing approximately 14% increase, made by Atty. Marino. Mr. Moroni entered second to the motion. Motion carried with nine members voting Aye.

3. Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. - \$18,000

Atty. Marino, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Abbot, Mr. Moroni and Mr. Walters presented the following reasons for supporting this agency's request: of all the organizations, the Middletown office of CLS faces a clear and present danger of going out of existence; loss of a local office would be a disservice to people who do not understand legal matters and cannot afford to pay for legal advice; this is a critical issue, and by providing funds, the City would send a message to the parent group demonstrating community support to assure legal assistance to low-income people. Mr. Giuliano recommended that the Committee follow the Federal

government's lead to cut funds. The Committee voted in favor of Ms. Howell's motion, second by Mr. Botti, to fund the agency at the amount requested with nine members voting Aye. Mr. Walters emphasized that the statement to the Council and to the Mayor should communicate that City funding is a message to the parent group to keep the Middletown office open.

4. Young Parent's Assistance Program - \$9,603

Due to loss of all Federal funding, this agency prepared a bare bones budget. Mr. Oliver made a motion to fund the program at the amount requested. Ms. Abbot entered a second. Mr. Walters stated his strong feelings that the program is needed and survival may depend on linkage with another agency. Mr. Walters continued that the staff is stretched thin, with the director doing administrative work and counselling. Mr. Walters added that this program has a preventive element that deserves support. Atty. Marino was impressed that the budget was tailored to reflect a large decrease in Federal and State funds. The Committee agreed that the issue of a merger should not be a condition of funding. The motion passed unanimously with nine members voting Aye.

5. Visiting Nurse & Home Health Services of Greater Middletown, Inc. - \$12,620

The Committee's opinion is that services provided to the elderly under this program are the reason senior citizens are able to remain in independent living conditions. The Committee voted in favor of Ms. Howell's motion, second by Mr. Giuliano, to fund the agency at the amount requested with nine members voting Aye.

6. Community Action for Greater Middletown, Inc. - \$60,000

Atty. Marino commented that he is impressed with the breadth of services. Mr. Oliver spoke on the Head Start and Day Care Programs which provide training and meet nutritional needs. Atty. Marino noted that CAGM does extensive outreach into the community and that their services are well documented. Mr. Walters observed that a large percent of the county residents served live in Middletown.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Oliver's motion, second by Mr. Moroni, to fund the agency at the amount requested with eight members voting Aye, Ms. Howell abstained from voting.

7. Regional Training Center Camp for Retarded Children & Adults - \$9,310

The Committee's opinion is that this program serves a "forgotten group" of people. Atty. Marino's notes indicate an increase in the number of Middletown residents who attend this Camp. Mr. Walters suggested that allocation is based on prior attendance; therefore, 35 children and adults are expected from Middletown this coming season. Mr. Walters added that the request is 16% of the agency's total budget, while attendance represents one-third from Middletown. The Committee also noted that Middletown does not have facilities which address summer camp needs for the physically and mentally handicapped.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Giuliano's motion, second by Mr. Oliver, to fund the agency at the amount requested with nine members voting Aye.