

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Meeting
Wednesday, February 6
2100 Clarendon Blvd – Courthouse Plaza
Room 311

Members Present: Kenneth Robinson, Rosemary Leffler, Diane Duston, Steven Gallagher, Tim Denning, Linc Cummings, Larry Withers, Maryclare Whitehead, Lara Malakoff, Linda Hearne

Staff Present: Caitlin Jones, Jennifer Daniels, Rolda Nedd

Members of the Public Present: Matt Fitzgerald, Angel Ampey, Greg Bramham

Tim Denning called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

1. *Approval of January 2 Minutes*

Stephen Gallagher clarified that the benefit to CDCAC members is programmatic rather than financial. If something fundamentally changes about the program, that would be interesting to know. Staff agreed to clarify this in the minutes. The January 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. *State of Virginia CSBG Program – Matt Fitzgerald*

Jennifer Daniels introduced Matt Fitzgerald and Angel Ampey who are with the State of Virginia Department of Social Services, Office on Volunteerism and Community Service. Matt and Angel were in town to monitor Arlington's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. Matt Fitzgerald provided an overview of the CSBG program in Virginia and the various types of organizations that administer CSBG funds. Most areas that receive CSBG money administer the funds via a private non-profit organization. Arlington is somewhat unique in that the funds are administered by a public entity. Arlington is one of six other public community action program (CAPs) in Virginia.

Recently the state has been focusing on outputs vs. outcomes, trying to focus its CSBG agencies on reporting how the programs funded by CSBG are actually affecting people's everyday lives. The state has been training CAPs on using data to analyze programs and how it informs program decisions, i.e. ensuring that there is a needs assessment process, determining actionable goals that you can design programs around, etc. Matt relayed that the State is open to hearing ways that they can support the program or committee better.

One CDCAC member asked if there is any difference in the cost to operate a private vs. public CAP? Matt responded that it depends on the program and type of organization. Private might have a better connection to the community, but public CAPs often have more capacity.

3. *Internal County CD-Fund Program Updates*

Andres Tobar, Day Laborer Program, Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC)

The Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC) is located in South Arlington in Shirlington right off of Four Mile Run. Staff employed by SEEC help to ensure safe and orderly operation of the organization's pavilion and day laborer program. The idea behind the program is to create a safe environment for individuals who are looking for work but might not be eligible to work because of their immigration status. Individuals are required to sign in at the office to be able to participate in the program and SEEC creates IDs with pictures for day laborers to use.

In 2017, SEEC began leasing space from AFAC. Prior to this move, SEEC was residing in space owned by Arlington County. Recently SEEC has been in conversation with the County about moving the pavilion due to the scheduled renovation of Jennie Dean park.

SEEC typically connects clients with 1,500-2,000 jobs per year. Most of these jobs are with the construction and landscaping field and the jobs typically last for 1-3 days. SEEC also trains immigrant women in green housecleaning; there have been roughly 150 graduates over the last several years. The program has also been successful in connecting day laborers with other resources besides just employment, such as ESL training and small business training. SEEC has established a good relationship with other safety net nonprofits in the community such as AFAC, Arlington Thrive, Arlington Free Clinic, and many churches from the local faith community.

One CDCAC member asked if there is a supervisor with the workers – are they bilingual, are workers English speakers? SEEC responded that the pavilion supervisors are bilingual. Another member asked why day laborers are hanging out in office. SEEC staff responded that they get calls from employers and some come straight to the office looking for laborer that can perform a specific task. Another member asked if SEEC screens its clients. SEEC staff responded that they do not screen potential day laborers and that it is up to the employers to determine if the day laborer is a good fit for the job.

Saul Reyes, Promotora Program, BUGATA

Saul Reyes provided an overview of BUGATA's Promotora program, which encourages civic engagement of low-income residents in the Buckingham community. The goals of the program are to build social networks, use neighborhood leaders to reach isolated residents, identify barriers faced by Latinos to accessing services, and work with low-income Latinos and other renters to participate actively in ensuring implementation of Arlington's Affordable Housing Master Plan.

Since the program's inception, BUGATA has conducted outreach with 2,500+ households, a majority of whom were low-income residents of different races and ethnicities, a majority Latinos, others are African Americans (includes Africans), Asians, Whites, and other multi-racial. In this, BUGATA provided roughly 300 households with one-on-one casework over the year. Some examples of the impact the program has had on tenants include securing access to heating/cooling subsidies, securing changes in Relocation Plans and/or changes in program implementation to keep tenants from being displaced, assisting tenants with remaining in their units, teaching tenants how to access services, teaching clients how to fill out forms, apply for programs or negotiate with landlords or other government officials, assisting with eviction prevention at several complexes, conducting trainings for tenants and prospective "promotoras", etc. BUGATA was also a co-sponsor or participant of several community workshops and events related to tenants' rights, poverty prevention, fair housing, etc.

One committee member asked how long BUGATA tracks residents who obtain employment, citizenship, housing, etc. BUGATA staff tries to track client success but can only rely on self-reported data so the information they have is limited. In general, it has been easier for BUGATA to track housing referrals because clients will inform BUGATA if there is a threat of eviction. BUGATA refers clients to legal services organizations for certain issues.

4. *Anne Vor der Bruegge, Arlington Community Foundation, Bridges out of Poverty Project*

The Arlington Community Foundation's (ACF) Bridges out of Poverty project convenes nonprofits in the community to create a peer group and talk about issues as they come up in the community. Safety net nonprofits approached ACF and DHS originally because they wanted to talk about how nonprofits can better collaborate with each other and community. The Bridges out of Poverty project confronts the realities of living in poverty by looking at poverty through an economic class lens and recognizing that there are issues within the community that intersect and that community institutions are set up to benefit mostly middle-class communities. The goal of the project is to come up with ways to make community safety net programs work more efficiently and eliminate bottlenecks between services.

The Bridges out of Poverty project started a pilot program working with 200 households who are multigenerational. The pilot connects families with 20 different nonprofits to navigate families through the process of getting services throughout the County.

One Committee member asked about the difference between this model and case management. Anne responded that this model is committed to a much higher level of influence; families who are participating in the system are the ones who are "stuck", something isn't working and the nonprofits participating collaborate to problem solve.

Another committee member asked what the childcare burden for Arlington County is. Anne responded that individuals shouldn't pay more than 10% of income on childcare and that Arlington is the most childcare burdened community in the region, on average families are paying about 34 to 38 percent of annual household income on childcare.

5. *CDCAC Charter Review*

CDCAC members reviewed the updated CDCAC charter and the motion to approve the charter revisions was approved unanimously.

6. *Community Development Fund FY 2019 Second Quarter Report*

County staff reviewed the second quarter financial and programmatic report with CDCAC members. Overall, subrecipients drew down a little over \$143,000 in CDBG, CSBG, TANF and AHIF Housing Services funds in quarter two of fiscal year 2019. Programmatic updates include:

- LEDC's Chief Lending Officer and Head of Small Business Programs recently parted with the organization; the organization is currently recruiting for the position
- AHOME is currently in the process of merging with LEDC. AHOME's program will continue to operate in Arlington and Karen Serfis will continue to be the main point of contact for its Arlington operation.
- Rebuilding Together's program officer, Marcy Bartlett retired in October 2018 after 4 years with the organization. Rebuilding Together recently hired a new person to fill that position.

7. *Chair Report*

Tim Denning reported that he recently met with Matt de Feranti to discuss the committee, and is continuing to discuss opportunities for where the committee can add value. Tim has also been focusing on recruiting, trying to get in front of civic association to recruit members to represent the low-income category.

8. *Staff Report*

Staff reported that they are currently planning the Community Development Tour to be held April 3 and asked for recommendations of programs to invite from CDCAC members.

Staff also reported that the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo will take place March 30, 2019 from 10 am - 3 pm at Washington-Lee High School.

The March 6 CDCAC Meeting location will be Arlington Mill Community Center, details forthcoming.

Finally, staff reported that the County has organized quarterly tenant-landlord engagement forums as a result of last year's eviction forum. The purpose of the meetings is to provide a structured place for landlords to talk with tenants about issues such as legislative changes, policy changes, prevention and eviction services, helping tenants understand resources, etc.

9. *Member Reports*

Ken Robinson reported that Christian Dorsey is speaking with RAFOM civic association on March 12 at Prospect House condo building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm