



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
City Councillor

Good Evening:

This evening's hearing affords an excellent opportunity for Councillors, Human Service Providers, Human Service Clients and Staff to begin a dialogue on the delivery of needed services in a time of fiscal restraint and uncertainty.

Questions abound for all of us in the Cambridge Community on what role if any Washington and Beacon Hill will play in the lives of our young, our elders, the physically challenged, the abused, the poor - basically all spectrums of human existence.

We have been told by both President Bush and Governor Weld that sacrifice and belt tightening will be required on the part of the citizenry to solve the fiscal crisis facing our nation and our state. At what price or at who's cost do we begin at. Do we pit one client base against another? Do we eliminate programs? Do we consolidate?

These questions do not lend themselves to easy answers. But these questions need answers.

Oftentimes, Councilors are called upon to appropriate funds during the budgetary process for programs based on expenditure and revenue streams. Tonight's hearing puts a human face on those appropriations. I am here to listen, to learn, to experience the successes as well as the shortcomings of the present Human Service delivery system. I am ready to commit myself to the long haul, to lobby, to fight for monies to ensure that those in need will be provided for with dignity and compassion.

Thank you.

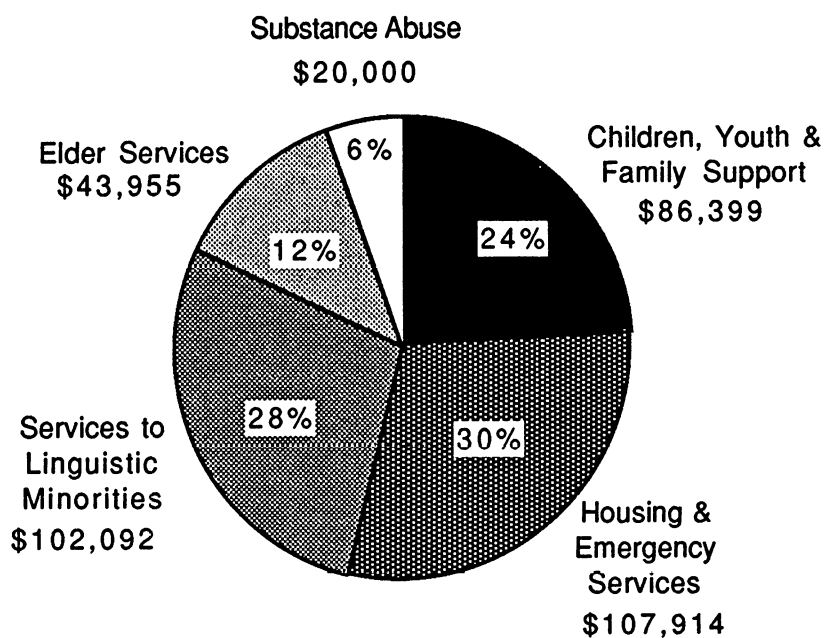
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toomeyspeech

FY'91 CDBG/HUMAN SERVICE ALLOCATIONS

<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
• Cambridge Family & Children's Service Bigelow Street Residence	\$ 20,000
• Cambridge Hospital Teen Health Center	17,744
• Cambridge Housing Authority The Work Force Program	30,000
• Cambridgeport Problem Center	15,256
• CASPAR Alcohol Education Program	13,000
• CASPAR Emergency Service Center	7,000
• Center, Inc. - N.S.S.I.	8,655
• CHAMA	30,000
• Child Care Resource Center	30,000
• Community Learning Center	12,092
• Concilio Hispano de Cambridge	30,000
• COPA	30,000
• Food For Free	19,223
• SCM Community Transportation Co.	20,000
• Shortstop	10,979
• Multi-Service Center for the Homeless, DHSP	42,456
• Elder Housing Assistance Program, DHSP	23,955
• Planning/Administration, DHSP	54,640
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TOTAL CDBG HUMAN SERVICE ALLOCATION	\$415,000

FY'91 ALLOCATIONS BY SERVICE TYPE



Presented at the Cambridge Public Hearing on Thursday,
February 7, 1991.

Good Evening everybody. My name is Pierre Cadet. I'm here to represent the Community Learning Center for level 3/4 English class. We would like to explain why we need to learn more English.

We represent ten different countries and many languages. First of all, living in a country as immigrants, it is very important to learn more English.

Here are some of the reasons why we need to continue classes. First and most importantly, we want to be able to communicate to other people. New immigrants need English to survive. We want to know more about American culture. We want to get good jobs and to become part of our community and practice a profession. And some of the students want to continue their education. If we don't have English classes, we can't understand each other and share our culture. If we don't have English classes, we can't make progress in our lives.

The Community Learning Center has been very helpful with us. We don't want that to end. Most of us waited on the waiting list for over one year to get this class. Please continue the classes.

So we think a good education can lead to a bright future.

ESL level 3/4

Lu Hong Bo
Pierre Cadet
Delfino Ferreira
Martha Glron
Ting Jing
Jean Victor

Alder Lopez
Roberta Meza
Dawen Pang
Iveth Ribeiro
Zeray Teklu

23 Hope St. N.Y.

Allston Mass 02134

Feb 5, 1971

The Honorable Jonathan Myers
Cambridge City Council
400 Mass Ave Cambridge Mass 02391

Dear Mr. Myers:

I'm writing this letter to you because of the cuts in funds that's going to affect if the Learning Center will be able to stay open. I've been coming to the Learning Center for the last three years now, and without the Center I could not have wrote and express the importance of support that the Center needs at this time from all of the Councilors. Being able to come here has help me to get a better job and build confidence in my self.

The Learning Center is one of the most important institution that the City of Cambridge provide the people who go there to learn to speak English to read to write and to further their education, and a new way of life.

I hope and pray that the Learning Center stay in its place, and continual helping thoughts who benefits will be all of us to share together.

Sincerely

Robert J. Clayton

The Hon. Jonathan Myers
Chair, Human Services and Youth
Committee City Council,
Cambridge, Ma.

141 PORTLAND ST
Cambridge, Ma.
2-5-91

Dear Councillor Myers:

Mr Myers I am writing to you concerning the Learning Center. As we all know, the budget is very tight, but if you close this program we can't help you to provide funds by graduating and getting good jobs.

My teacher has appointed a student to speak on behalf of the students of the Learning Center about how much this program means to all of us who came from another country with no knowledge of the language.

Sincerely yours,

A Student

3 Woodrow Wilson
Cambridge Mass

2-5-91

COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MYERS
CITY HALL
Cambridge Mass

Dear Jonathan Myers

Please not cut the budget for the
learning center, because it help number
of people to learn & speak english. AND IT
HELP people to go back to school.
It help me to get my diploma.

IF THE budget get cut it
mean teacher will lose there job. at
the learning center. So if you can
help to save the budget it will
be appreciated.

THANK YOU
Cathy Decker
Cathy Decker
Cathy Decker

2-5-91
89 HOLYOKE ST
MALDEN MASS
02148

MR. JONATHAN MYERS
CITY HALL
800 MASS AVE
CAMBRIDGE MASS

DEAR COUNCILLOR MYERS:

I'M A STUDENT AT THE COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTER. I HOPE YOU
COULD MAKE A LOT OF CHANGES
FOR ^{THE} CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, BY RE-
HIRE^{ING} ~~THE~~ THE TEACHERS THAT GOT
LAI~~D~~ OFF LAST YEAR. I WOULD
LIKE TO TAKE ~~MORE~~ CLASSES, TO
GRADUATE THIS SUMMER, BUT
I CAN'T, BECAUSE ^{OF} ALL THE
CUTS.

A STUDENT

54 Allguncy St
Roxbury MA
Feb 5/90

The Hon Jonathan Myers
Chair Human Services
City Council
Cambridge, MA

Dear Councillor Myers;

I really do wish you could spare the
Lanning Center from any further cuts.
I know that you and your fellow councillors are
under a lot of pressure to make these cuts. But
when I come to class, I see a lot of hope and promise
You see I am a person whom the public school
Susan Felke. Please don't let it feel me again.
I was just begging to have some hope.

Sen Giana A. Student

184 Harvard St. #410
Cambridge Mas 02134

The Hon. Jonathan Myers
Chair Human Services and Youth Committee
City Council
Cambridge, MA

Dear Councillor Myers:

Coming to Learning Center did a lot for me
I had an opportunity to speak and understand
English. ALSO I am trying to get my G.E.D.
I can go study some skill that will help
me in the future. It will be better for us if
the program keeps running and the teachers can
have a job.

Sincerely, yours

Maritane Guillaume
Maritane Guillaume

205 Hurley St
Cambridge Mass 02141
2.5.1991

The Hon. Jonathan Myers
Chair Human Services and Youth Committee
City Council
Cambridge Mass

Dear Councillor Myers:

The learning center means a lot to me. It helps us to further our education and to get better jobs. The people that can't speak English it helps them to learn how to speak English, and if the budget is cut we all will be out of school.

When I came to the center I could hardly read or write, and now I am doing much better thanks for the center.

Sincerely Yours
A Student

14 Boston St #2c
Somerville mass/02143
2/7/1990

Hon Jonathan Myers
City Hall
Cambridge mass
02143

Dear

Councillor Myers I hope you do every thing in your power to see that the Cambridge Learning Center stays open. The reason is that people how had to drop out of high school with out a diploma, now have a schange to get a ADP or GED at the learning center, The learning center gave many off us a secon schange to deside what we want to accomplish in life.

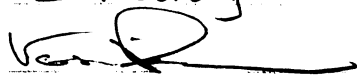
465 WINDSOR ST
CAMBRIDGE MA 02141
Feb, 05, 1991

THE HON. JONATHAN MYERS
Chair, Human Services
and Youth Committee
CITY COUNCIL
CAMBRIDGE MA

Dear Councillor Myers:

I am a student at the Cambridge Learning Center. I am writing regarding cuts in the school budget. Education is very important, without it we can not better our selves in our careers or socially. The Learning Center helps alot of people, that other wise would not be able to afford a education.

I feel instead of making cuts you should have been increased the budget to hire more teachers, there are to many people in need of education and can't afford it. I wish you would consider the importance of this issue, without it where would the world be.

Sincerely

VENCE PIRES

To Whom It May Concern
Please do not cut
funding for S.C.M. It
allows me to feel as
if I can keep doctor
appointments without asking
family members to miss
work. Just to have this
small measure of control
over my everyday life lets
me feel a though a little
dignity is left to me.

Martha H. Flowers
17 Kimball Street
Cambridge, Ma 02140

Phone 864-0865

January 4, 1991

P.S. -

Even without a ride it
would be impossible to attend this
meeting.

Mrs. Judith Medeiros-Adams
107 1/2 Inman Street #2
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

February 6, 1991

City Council Members,

I have been a Cambridge resident all of my life and I would like to express my concerns about the budget cuts to programs that directly affect my children.

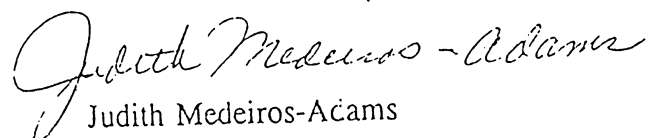
My son, Jonathan, is a fifth grader at the Harrington School and because of a core evaluation (chapter .766) he had two years ago is doing much better in school. Jonathan has a speech impediment and because of this disability he had very low self-esteem which affected his overall performance in school. Because a core evaluation was done Jonathan has benefitted from speech therapy and counseling and is now a fifth grade honor roll student. We are proud of him, but more importantly he has confidence in himself.

I also have an 18 month old daughter, Kristina, who has Downs Syndrome who will need a core evaluation when she becomes of school age. What will we do then? Presently Kristina is enrolled in the Project Helo program which was funded by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). DMH was drastically cut last fall and no longer has money to subsidize Kristina's day care through Project Helo. I have tried other Human Service offices for help and no one has the funds. It's just one budget cut story after another. I have no idea what is going to happen to this wonderful program, as of today the program will have to close on July 1. Because of Kristina's special needs there is no other program available to her. I am working part-time (21 hours a week) primarily for health insurance benefits and on January 25, 1991 my husband was temporarily laid off from his job as a plumber's apprentice. There is no way we can afford to pay more for day care and we are afraid of not having anywhere to turn.

I have learned that Respite Care is another program that has been threatened. Respite care is an important program for children with special needs. There are times when you need someone to care for your child whether it be an emergency or social event. Respite Care providers are specially trained to provide the best care possible to children with special needs. We need this program and it is not a program that is abused by parents.

I realize we are in a recession and money is limited, but it seems that the programs that are critical to child development and special needs are hardest hit and hit in all directions. Our children are our future and right now our children's future is sadly uncertain.

Sincerely,


Judith Medeiros-Adams
Concerned Parent

CENTER, INC.

MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION CENTER OF CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE, INC.
12 MAPLE AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139
617-491-0600

February 7, 1991

Testimony of Miriam Lasher, Director of Center, Inc.'s Preschool Unit, presented to the Cambridge City Council Human Services and Youth Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Miriam Lasher. I am Director of the Preschool Unit. You may know us as part of Center, Inc., which is our community partner, or you may know us as a children's services program of the Cambridge-Somerville Mental Health Center.

The Preschool Unit has two major programs: Cambridge-Somerville Early Intervention, serving children from birth to age three and their families, and a specialized day care and respite care program, called Project HELO, which serves children birth to age six.

Early Intervention, in this context, is a family-focused service for children with disabilities and those at risk for all kinds of developmental problems. Our funding comes from several public sources, primarily the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, and Mental Retardation - a good example of a collaboration that magnifies the value of each dollar. Funding also comes from the generous contributions of many citizens and private groups.

I want to talk about Early Intervention. Last fiscal year, we saw over 175 different Cambridge children. Since July first, 51 additional families have asked for service. Half our families have infants under six months of age when they first call us. Many are newborns in families with multiple problems, or babies just coming home after a period of hospitalization.

If you want to know what the future holds, keep an eye on Early Intervention, because we are seeing the "previews," every day, of the kinds of special needs the next generation of children will have, the problems families will face, and the complex interrelationships between different service providers that will be necessary in order to help them get what they need for their kids and themselves. Having a child with a disability, or a child at developmental risk, only magnifies the urgency and the complexity of the things all families need to make good lives for themselves in cities like Cambridge.

Daniel F. Brosnan
Jane Erving Rich
President

Henry Horn

Robert L. De Gregorio
Treasurer

Vivian Katz

Margaret J. Abrams
Clerk

Ellen Moot

Here are some trends we are seeing - the previews of what's to come:

- * More client families are bilingual or non-English speaking.
- * More families have been displaced from other countries after facing violence and traumatic loss.
- * More children are being raised by moms who are single, with limited supports.
- * More families are currently homeless or have lived in numerous precarious housing arrangements.
- * More infants are being born drug-exposed, or into families in which substance abuse is present.
- * More babies are coming home with complex medical needs and multiple anomalies, who were not previously cared for outside of hospitals.
- * More babies are being born much too early and much too small.
- * More families have multiple needs independent of the specific disabilities their babies may have. Helping them requires complex care management and the cooperation of several agencies.

We are also seeing trends in the way care systems work together and are funded:

- * As each funding source tightens its criteria, it adds layers of paperwork designed to achieve accountability that leave less staff time to devote to direct care.
- * As each agency experiences budget cuts, it tightens its eligibility criteria; children get reduced amounts of service; they wait longer for service and face earlier discharge. Problems must be emergent before they get attention.
- * There is a multiplier effect to the budget cuts. The loss of one position, if that staff person generated third party revenue, means the loss of another person's salary as well.
- * The most cost effective services - in prevention and early intervention - are the first to be considered for cuts.
- * Basic family supports that would help families make the most of a small amount of help are the first to be withdrawn.

I will give just one concrete example: Our specialized family day care program, Project HELO, has lost 50% of its public funding in the past 19 months; it will be downsized by one third by July and has already instituted a fee structure that excludes those who need it most. When a developmentally disabled child could receive care in a day care home with an experienced provider under good supervision, a weekly or monthly visit by a therapist was enough to maintain that child and update therapeutic programs that both parent and provider could carry out. But when the day care funds are withdrawn, you not only disrupt the parent's ability to work or study, but you may immediately triple the amount and complexity of more expensive professional intervention needed by that child and family.

A tiny investment in a baby or a toddler can reduce or prevent the need for a year of special education, a foster care placement, or a lifetime of institutional care. I urge that the City consider basic support services to families of infants and young children as the very best investment a community can make.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The Human Services and Youth Committee conducted a public hearing on Thursday, February 7, 1991 beginning at 7:34 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the above referenced Committee convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this evening's proceedings was to solicit testimony from the public at large and human service providers. This testimony would serve as an important step in the City's efforts to evaluate the extent of cuts in human services, to set priorities and develop human services policy and to develop a response to ensure the health of city residents. This hearing was also to serve as the City's Annual Human Services Commission Community Development Block Grant hearing. Present at the hearing were: Mayor Alice K. Wolf, Vice Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, Councillor Edward N. Cyr, Councillor Francis H. Duehay (committee member), Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Walter J. Sullivan, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey (committee member), Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold, Human Services Commission Members and Deputy City Clerk John E. Flynn.

Councillor Myers, in his opening remarks, welcomed all to the hearing and outlined the procedural format to be followed during the hearing (see copy attached). The Chair acknowledged the changing human service climate due to budget cuts, and subsequent change in the level of need. In the development of a Cambridge response to providing human services in the 1990's, Councillor Myers outlined the following goals:

1. To bring together city leadership, the public, and service providers in the development of human services policy.
2. To examine the effectiveness of our current human services delivery system.
3. To hear from the community about their sense of what services need to be provided.
4. To strengthen collaborations and build bonds between service providers, the schools, and the community.
5. To position ourselves so that Cambridge can advocate for the provision of human services in our community and in others as well.

At this time the Committee heard from Ms. Herold, who stated that this hearing was one step in a multiple step process of examining human service needs and trends. The other steps are as follows:

- an agency survey;
- a random-sample telephone survey;

- additional public hearings;
- compilation of previously completed need assessment; and
- community-based focus groups hearings.

At this time the Chair recognized committee members for their opening remarks. Councillor Duehay commenting on the serious times facing the nation with the War in the Gulf, the re-allocation of federal dollars to the war effort and the deep recession on both the regional and national level. He further outlined the President's proposal to allocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the States which could result in local needs not being met. Councillor Duehay further stated that a needs exists to re-examine present programs and their funding sources in order to organize and advocate for their continuation with applicable federal and state agencies. He further stated that the City will reach its property tax levy limit in FY92 and thus not be able to provide resources to supplement state and federal budgetary cuts.

Councillor Toomey delivered prepared remarks to the assemblage. (copy of the statement is attached)

At this time Mr. Ron Benham, Chair, Human Services Commission, outlined the annual review process employed by the Commission. He also provided the committee with the FY91 CDBG/Human Service allocations. (A copy attached). He stated that the FY92 allocation will be \$466,800.00, a 12% increase over FY91 but the President has recommended a 10% cut for FY93.

At this time the following public testimony was provided:

Charles Rodgers, Mary Rowe, Barbara Pilgrim, Rosemarie Moorehead, Josie Muolo, Ellie Nugent, Patricia Calioro, Carolyn Shipley, Ann Marie Thorp, and Teresa Addias spoke on behalf of the following Community Schools: Longfellow, Haggerty, Peabody, Kennedy, Graham & Parks, and Fitzgerald. They described the important offerings of their respective community schools and urged the City to keep funding intact for these programs.

Elizabeth Anderson, who works with Portuguese families a the Cambridge Youth Guidance Center, read a letter written by her 11-year old client. The client describes how Elizabeth has been very helpful to her family and that the client feels good and safe with Elizabeth. It was explained that the client lives with and abusive, alcoholic father.

Dr. Chalfen and Cambridge Hospital Administrator John O'Brien spoke about their willingness to be as supportive as possible to agencies that have been severely impacted by budget cuts. They said that the Hospital has been fortunate so far with a relatively small cut of about one million dollars in state funds, mostly in mental health. More cuts may come with changes in medicare and medicaid and a loss of local aid dollars.

Paul Ribokas Sr. and Charles Ribokas spoke about the importance of elderly transportation and that elders would be shut in without this service.

Robert Crayton, Maggy Gablanes, and Pierre Cadet are students at the Community Learning Center and spoke about what the service means to them. Some of the reasons they gave for wanting to learn English were: to help their children in school; learn the traditions of this culture; to have a better future; to use transportation modes; get good jobs; and communicate with Americans. (Statements attached)

Polyxane Cobb talked about the importance of services for persons with disabilities. She described her son who has a severe communication disorder and uses many City Services. Cobb said the recreation programs in the City are remarkable. The most important aspect of these programs is that it provides an arena for disabled people to have friendships. She said that disabled people will be very needy if services were removed.

Gerry Bergman has lived on Essex Street for 17 years. He is concerned about the increased concentration of wealth and power in Cambridge. He acknowledged that the City has made some commitments, such as the Area 4 Teen Center, but more is needed. Bergman believes that the Central Square library should be open more, especially on Saturdays in the summer. More outreach is needed to foreign-born people to bring them into programs. Human service programs should be integrated by race and languages.

Luke Sullivan, a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin, mentioned that his family was in crisis in the past. He said that professionals and teachers could help but that peer support finally helped. Sullivan urged each of us to reach out and help others.

Judith Medeiros-Adams spoke about the importance of social services to her family. Her son in fifth grade has a speech impediment; her 18 month old daughter has Down's Syndrome; and her husband is unemployed. Medeiros-Adams specifically mentioned Project Helo as an important support for her family that may be defunded as of July 1, 1991. She spoke in general about the importance of respite care and services for people with special needs. (Statement attached)

Kim Smith described Food for Free as a hunger relief organization that was started by a group of friends. The program has grown to respond to growing needs and is now serving, among others, larger numbers of linguistic minorities and elders.

At this time the Chair recognized the Mayor and Councillors for their remarks.

Mayor Wolf talked about how vulnerable we have become as a City because of budget cuts and that we must continue to commit ourselves to doing the best that we can as a City. She described her work with the Children and Youth Policy Project and called for a recommitment on the part of the City to kids. She acknowledged that this will be a difficult year and that we must emerge from it continuing to support our values. Wolf said that we will feel the effect of budget cuts from both the reduced capacity of the City to provide funding and reductions in State funds.

Councillor Cyr expressed that no other City is more committed to human services than Cambridge. He spoke about the aging of our City's population and the need for a central senior center. The City made an enormous commitment to crisis intervention and homelessness over the past few years. Cyr stressed the important role that our private, non-profits play in the City because, among other reasons, they are able to leverage non-City dollars.

Vice-Mayor Reeves described his visit to the Salvation Army Day Program as a powerful experience because he discovered that many of the guests are just like you and me but they have become "derailed". He mentioned the need for more substance abuse treatment programs and for there to be as many youth councils as neighborhood councils. He stressed the need for psychiatric support services and a better understanding of the stresses that people are under. With regard to linguistic minorities, Reeves believes that the reception that they will receive from the City, will determine what type of citizens they will become. Last, he praised the efforts of St. Paul's AME Church to sponsor the training, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child".

Councillor Russell said she is very interested to hear about human service funding issues and acknowledged that human service programs are among the most important programs in the City.

Councillor Sullivan stated that he was here to listen and learn firsthand from the experiences of both the client and provider.

School Superintendent Mary Lou McGrath described the School Department's efforts to link with human services, including school-based family support center, Concilio Hispano's AHORA program, student support teams, and educational services within public housing. McGrath identified the need for transportation of kids to after-school activities and the space limitation in the elementary schools.

Cathy Brochu of Shelter, Inc. identified these needs/trends: growing numbers of the mentally ill who are not getting treatment; more violence in the homeless population; increasing numbers of homeless teens, many with substance abuse problems, and some using sex to obtain drugs; the need for permanent siting of the Albany St. Shelter; need for dental services; and the need for permanent housing.

Tracy Slater of Transition House called for continued and improved services for battered women and children. Slater said that they receive 6,000 crisis calls on the hot-line and have delivered violence-prevention curriculum to 5,000 students in Cambridge. Every 22 days, a woman in Massachusetts dies from abuse. More state funds are spent on the Metropolitan Zoo than on Battered Women's Shelters.

Paula Kowalke and Helen Siciliano of the YWCA residence programs identified these needs/trends: permanent housing is the greatest need; without housing subsidies there is virtually no access to housing; difficulty with accessing collateral services for guests; need for supportive services for guests that will occupy the expanded housing program at the YWCA.

John Rosen of Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services explained that the program serves 19 towns but one-third of their caseload are Cambridge residents. The total caseload and the Cambridge caseload have increased by 20% and 22-23% respectively. The following needs/trends have been observed: increase in illegal lockouts and evictions; increase in the expiration of housing subsidies; more demand for family law services because of dramatic increase in the number of battered women and children.

Quynh Vu, David Lerin and Macy Delong spoke on behalf of Bread & Jam and the Cambridge Furniture Bank. They expressed the importance of homeless and low-income people having a voice in service provision. Direct self-participation results in empowerment. Bread & Jam is looking for affordable community center space. There needs to be alternative solutions to address feelings of uselessness. One example is the Habitat model for rehabilitating houses.

Sandra Wixted of Cambridge Family & Children's Service described the impact of budget cuts which have resulted in 100 less low-income single parents receiving counseling services, 40 less at-risk adolescents receiving services, and 40 less people participating in group services. Wixted used the homeless parent-aide collaborative as a successive example of what providers need to do more of in the future.

George McCray spoke as a Board member of CFCS and a shelter program and said that government as we know it, will change dramatically. More people are faced with homelessness and we need to create more work opportunities for kids.

Ronna White of Neighborhood Support Systems for Infants (NSSI) said that it is important to have a family focus, not just a child focus, in human services. NSSI lost its DSS funding and is left with only City funding from Somerville and Cambridge. Their cases are more intensive this year, especially with linguistic minority families.

Marie Esposito of the Cambridge Visiting Nurses identified the following needs/trends: increases in the number of substance abusing mothers; 1000% increase in households with abuse and violence; need for positive role models for parents as is offered through parent aide programs.

Flo Leary of Cambridge Cares described the services of her agency and the cost-effectiveness of designing a "cluster of services" within elder housing.

Lynn D'Ambrose of Cambridge Community Services used the following statistics to demonstrate the need for interpreter services: the program provides over 100 hours of interpretation a month to low-income residents; 16 Cambridge agencies utilize the program; the typical client is a parent, 30-40 years old, and in need of interpretation for medical care; the program can respond to one out of every three requests; there is a need for ESL training for residents and research shows that it takes 3-8 years for people to learn a language.

Miriam Lasher of the Pre-School Unit of Center, Inc. said that 200 Cambridge families were seen last year. The following trends/needs are observed: more non-English speaking families in need; more single mothers; more homeless or near homeless families; more drug-exposed infants; increase in the number of babies with complex medical needs; families with multiple needs. Lasher also mentioned that Project Helo has lost 50% of its funding, a full statement is attached to this report).

Susan Ayers of Cambridge Youth Guidance Center explained that the community mental health movement is being abandoned. Two years ago, the Department of Mental health established a policy that only the severest clients can be served. The Guidance Center can work with only one out of four families because of the restricted mandates. of 350 families served last year, 35% were uninsured, 30% were underinsured, and 35% were medicaid eligible. 64% of last year's clientele received free care.

John Long of SCM Transportation indicated that the Cambridge Council on Aging needs assessment shows that transportation, along with health care and housing, ranked as a critical need for elders. Elders will remain shut-ins without transportation. SCM is providing 10% more trips currently than over the previous year. Cambridge contributes one-half the amount on a per capita basis of other cities supporting SCM.

Teresa Turvey of Centro Presente said that there are approximately 2,000 Central Americans in Cambridge from the countries of Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The needs of this population are: jobs, job training; basic education (ESL and native-language literacy); health care; legal services (especially with immigration issues); and housing

Elizabeth MacMahon of the Cross Cultural Program, Cambridge Youth Guidance Center, described a typical day of a worker in this program which involved providing services in the school system and at a health center. The program has 4 workers, all part-time, and services have been cut drastically.

Beth Oglesby of the Child Care Resource Center said there is a dismantling of child care services. For example, only a small percentage of families on AFDC are able to access subsidized slots. Under a Governor Weld plan, families would be provided with "babysitting money" of \$300 maximum per month. The average cost of day care in Cambridge is \$150-\$250 per week. Oglesby also spoke about child care staff being underpaid and that CCRC has moved away from developing new child care to providing technical assistance to provider agencies.

Gloria Smith of Margaret Fuller House urged the City to consider the needs of families that are not readily identified as the most needy: low-income working families.

Steve Davis of Workforce Program, Cambridge Housing authority said that the program service level dropped from 88 to 18 youth as a result of State budget cuts. The unserved youth have not "disappeared" but are still in need of services. Davis gave a description of youth participants and how the program has provided assistance.

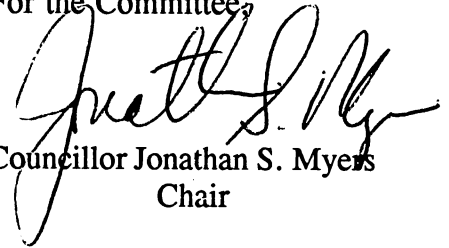
The Committee then heard from Susan Duley, a member of the Cambridge Strategic Planning Group, talked about the group's process that its members were stepping out of their "parochial roles" to look at the broader human service arena in Cambridge. It is important to continue a dialogue, forge a vision, and develop a list of what needs to happen for the future. This hearing is just one component of this process.

In closing, Councillor Myers stated that from the testimony presented a lot of work stands before the City Council and the city. He thanked the participants for their comments.

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The hearing was adjourned at 10:49 p. m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan S. Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Services & Youth Committee
Report for a hearing held on Feb. 7,
1991 to solicit testimony from the
public at large and human service
providers to evaluate the extent of
cuts in human services.

In City Council,

March 18, 1991

*Report Accepted
Placed in file*