



City of Cambridge

CR # 1

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 19, 1992

COUNCILLOR WOLF

ORDERED: That the Elder Affairs Committee be recorded as urging the Substance Abuse Task Force to meet with the Council on Aging's Geriatric Outreach Substance Abuse Program to discuss common goals and ways that the tow entities can cooperate.

In City Council October 19, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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The Elder Affairs Committee held a public meeting on September 22, 1992, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, Cambridge City Hall. Present at the hearing were Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Edward N. Cyr, Councillor William H. Walsh, Councillor Alice K. Wolf and City Clerk Margaret Drury.

Councillor Russell convened the meeting at 11:10 a.m., and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a report from the Counsel on Aging regarding its substance abuse programs and to hear from the Substance Abuse Task Force.

Kathy Filsinger, Director, Council on Aging, gave a brief history of the Council's substance abuse programs. She noted that CASPAR was the original sponsor of the program, and two and a half years ago it was spun off to the Council on Aging, as the Geriatric Outreach Substance Abuse Program (GOSAP). There are two sources of funding, the state and federal government, and the program is a joint program to serve both Cambridge and Somerville.

Linda McMahon, Program Coordinator for GOSAP, described the program. She said that the treatment goal is to get substance abusers to other programs, and that much of the work is bridge work with isolated people. Another part of the work involves outreach and wellness work with substance abusers, and work with the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Councillor Wolf asked whether the substance that was abused was mostly alcohol. Ms. McMahon responded that most of the work was centered around alcohol and prescription medication abuse.

Gail Slater, Program Assistant for GOSAP, described the "SMART" bingo game the program uses as a springboard for discussions on substance abuse. She also described some of the training that the program has undertaken with, for example, the police department and clergy.

Councillor Cyr suggested that perhaps churches could be "neutral" places for support groups - his experience has been that elders won't come to groups in their own buildings.

Kathy Filsinger described a "peer to peer" program which uses recovered seniors as peers to befriend substance abusing seniors and then initiate help. Worcester has a grant for such a program and GOSAP is interested in it.

Councillor Russell then requested that the Substance Abuse Task Force describe its work. Margo Dean, Director of the Task Force, noted that their grant is not a direct service grant. They have revised their goals to develop a nontraditional caregiver

prevention curriculum, and are seeking to involve elderly persons in substance abuse prevention for kids. As offshoot of this process, they expect that seniors with substance abuse problems will surface.

Councillor Russell asked whether there could be some coordination with the Council on Aging's substance abuse programs.

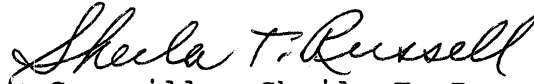
Margo Dean said that the Substance Abuse Task Force is focused on the first level, of getting people involved. Part of their focus is on how people can gain a sense of community. Their funding is from the federal government's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention. Under the funding guidelines, they cannot give funds to a city agency or staff a city agency, but they can work with the agency.

Councillor Wolf moved:

That the Committee be recorded as urging the Substance Abuse Task Force to meet with the Council on Aging's Geriatric Outreach Substance Abuse Program to discuss common goals and ways that the two entities can cooperate.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

For the Committee



Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Chair

1.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Affairs Committee for a hearing held on Tuesday, September 22, 1992 relative to a report from the Counsel on Aging regarding its Substance Abuse Programs.

In City Council,

October 19, 1992

Report accepted

Placed on file

Order adopted

*Copy of order sent to
Council on Aging
10/21/92 @*