

Solutions has increased dramatically. Last year 28 people were pre-screened and this year 85 were screened.

Pam Wilbanks, employment specialist from Human Solutions, had a client living in her car in the Human Solutions parking lot. Because the building says Gresham Police on the front she felt safe sleeping there. When she was found the staff got her into the program, a place to stay in a hotel, got her into transitional housing, helped her fix her teeth, got her into school to become a CNA and she had the highest marks in the class and is now working as a CNA.

Cathy Bronco, client of Human Solutions, got laid off her job and was collecting unemployment and looking for a job and couldn't find one. She had rent to pay and she heard about Living Solutions so she went to school and is now a CNA. She loves her job and if it wasn't for Living Solutions she would not have been able to go to school. Cathy says she still struggles but is 100% better than what she was.

Patricia McLean, lead social services specialist for rental assistance from Human Solutions testified. See attachment.

Jean Bruder lives in Gresham and wishes to thank the City for the rental assistance that prevented her from becoming homeless.

Brenda Oldrock, said Human Solutions has helped her family. She didn't know how to keep her family together day to day. A family advocate helped Ms. Oldrock have confidence and realize that she has a future.

Nathan Teske, El Programa Hispano, said that they have served the City of Gresham since 1982. They have helped over 5,000 people from the City. They get funded through CDBG for life skills. They handle anti poverty issues, mental health, gang prevention, youth retention, SUN schools and survivors of domestic violence. CDBG helps them to keep the door open for all these services.

Graciela is here to tell us about her personal experiences with El Programa Hispano. There are many services and she thanks God for the help. A little while ago El Programa started a meal program for elderly folks once a week and she is proud to be a volunteer in that program. She also volunteers at the senior center once a week. Graciela said she was very grateful for all the help that El Programa has provided for her and other people and she also feels it is important to give back to help others.

Maria said she is very grateful to El Programa for the help she has received through their domestic violence program. Because she was not aware of this program (El Programa Hispano) she survived 5 years without doing anything. Then she moved from Tillamook to the Portland area and found out about El Programa and sought help for severe depression. Ms. Paula reported that they have helped her with services and thanks the City for the help they give to El Programa Hispano.

Veronica thanked the City of Gresham and El Programa for helping her pay a bill after losing her job. She is currently updating her career.

Judy Strand, Metro Family Services, said they run an intergenerational mentoring program and it is really just getting off the ground. The children they serve are those who lack confidence, self esteem and are often lost in large classrooms. The teachers don't have enough time for them. Most of the children are below grade level or have a behavioral problem that is difficult. The volunteers are often very talented but low income and don't have a lot choices. The volunteers have said that when they come to the program they often have physical health complaints and depression before they work with children but after they work with the children both issues improve. The children are also succeeding and doing much better in school. Metro Family Services wants to keep helping both generations.

Quince Affolter from the Views program said the program is volunteer driven and run program for older adults. Peer counseling is support from older adults to older adults. Two groups are in Gresham, one at Fairlawn and one at the Gresham Senior Center. Both of them have waiting lists. In addition to the two groups there is a group of Latino Seniors who meet at the Loaves and Fishes sight. One on one peer counseling is also done in peoples homes. Workshops are now being held for older adults. They also have a men's group, run by men.

Pamela Block works at the Gresham Senior Center for the Views group. Ms. Block helps seniors access the bureaucratic systems that are available.

Brenda Jose from Unlimited Choices and they do housing rehab for accessibility and critical home repair. Thanks to the City of Gresham for funding them for all the years as it makes a big difference in their clients lives.

Ms. Jose told the committee of one of their clients who had passed on and then his wife became disabled and used the modifications. When the wife died the daughter wrote a note to Unlimited Choices thanking them for the modifications that allowed not only her father but her mother also to remain in their own home until death. The daughter also included a check and asked that any donations be sent to Unlimited Choices.

Chair Warren Scott closed the public hearing.

C. Housing Authority Presentation

Shelley Marchesi stated the Housing Authority (HAP) is for all of Multnomah County not just Portland. HAP serves more than 14,000 households for a variety of programs and has been in existence since 1941. HAP has been working with Gresham since 1992.

Jill Riddle, manager of the rent assistance program, explained Section 8 is a rent assistance program and the biggest rent assistance program around the county. The reason it is so popular is because the people can choose where they want to live. In the last 3 years the waiting list was open for 3 weeks, and had 10,000 people apply. Of those, 3,000 were placed on the waiting list and of the 3,000 it took a couple of years to get on to the top of the list. HAP has about 8,000 vouchers and unfortunately you have to wait until someone moves off the program before there is an opening. The average number of people leaving in a month was 70-80 but now with the change in the economy they are down to about 40 people a month leaving. The average length of time a client stays in the program is 6-7 years.

85% of the people they serve are extremely low income, a family of three only makes about \$18,900 a year or less.

About 80% of the people who are handed vouchers are successful in using them. The voucher holder pays about 30% of their income toward the rent cost.

HAP receives about \$56 million a year and half of the people (4,000) are disabled and elderly, about 26% have wages, 10% are on welfare and 8% have no income.

HAP is highly successful program and operates on good communications between HAP, tenants and landlords.

Roger Moore, real estate operations department of HAP, described the physical properties of HAP. HAP has 2 divisions of housing, one is public housing (all owned and operated by HAP) and the other is affordable housing which is managed by private management entities.

HAP re-evaluated their program and made strategies.

They have a 4 step process:

- Create criteria for residency screening requirements
- Build community
- Lease enforcement
- Community partners

HAP is trying to create safe communities that people feel good about living in and help people to learn what it takes to be a good renter.

D. Council Work Plan

Ann Pytynia stated that she didn't get a chance to talk with Mike Abbaté regarding the work plan but what the Council looks for from the committees are what they think city staff should be working on for the next year.

Ms. Fultz said to email her any ideas and she will pass them on.

Warren Scott asked Ms. Pytynia to check on what came out of the City Council Retreat and Ms. Pytynia said she would.

E. Staff Report

- Metro Family Services has a program with the City of Gresham called Foster Grandparents. They are requesting a transition to their Experience Corps program. The Experience Corps volunteers are easier to recruit and retain due to a more flexible, evidence-based program mode. The children are still low income but the grandparents do not have to be low income.

Larry Deacon moved that the CDBG funds from Foster Grandparents to Experience Corps. Wayne Shielee seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Larry Deacon	Yes	Cathy Olsen-Dennis	Absent	Julie Stewart	Yes
Elizabeth Livingston	Yes	Warren Scott	Yes	Wayne Shielee	Yes
Ward Walker	Absent				

- Vance Park will be discussed at the next meeting because of the lateness of the hour.
- Ms. Fultz asked the committee to review the handout regarding the Consolidated Plan public hearings so that the committee can discuss this at the next meeting in October. This is the year to create the new 5 Year Consolidated Plan.

Planning Commission Update

Planning Commissioner Ken Stein discussed the last planning commission work session. The topic was whether citizens would be allowed to have chickens within the City limits. It was by far the largest crowd that they have had. Commissioner Stein said it was very interesting that the next discussion was to be about nursery schools and not one of the people stayed to discuss this topic.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35