CASPAR -ACCESS Transitional Program

FY12 Funding: \$18,000 (\$2,000 cut from FY11) budget.

Site visit: 12/21/11

Present: Richard Riccio, Director of Emergency Services, Ada McNeil, Clinical Director, Gerardo Moreno-Serrano, Senior Treatment Coordinator, Catherine Pietrzak, Director of Finance & Operations, Jose Soares & Jolyon Cowan, DHSP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: ACCESS, a transitional program for newly sober individuals with a history of chronic homelessness and substance use disorders, increased its beds from 13 to 18 (12 beds for men and 6 beds for women). The program operates out of the CASPAR Emergency Service Center (ESC), a wet shelter at 240 Albany Street, which provides separate living/sleeping accommodations to ACCESS clients. Participants are required to attend pre-treatment groups, oneon-one counseling, socialization and psych-educational groups, and case management. ACCESS prepares shelter clients for CDBG funding covers 24% of Access the highly structured environment of residential treatment programs; and assists clients in their search for other sober housing alternatives and halfway residences.

- Currently, 1/3 of the program participants are from the Albany Street Shelter; some are referred from treatment and detox centers and the court system, while others come directly off the street.
- On the average, clients stay in the program 30 days, with the longest stay being 3-4 months depending on individual circumstances and the difficulty of placement.
- There is a 60% rate of retention.
- 80% of residents have multiple diagnoses; most have severe trauma histories.
- Most program residents enroll in the job training and placement program (in-house).

Trends: Where in the past clients tended to be older and abusing alcohol and crack, there is an increase in the number of clients in their twenties using heroin, exicontin, and nurontin. This is especially true of women in their early 20's who are increasingly coming to the program.

On Target? They have served 95 clients thru 2nd quarter with a goal of 125.

Note: CASPAR started a new employment training and placement program last year.

Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA)- Work Force (WF) College Success Initiative

FY12 Funding: \$20,000 CDBG funds 5% of program

Site visit: 3/7/12

Present: John Lindamood, Deputy Director, Resident Services, Cambridge Housing Authority. Jose Soares, DHSP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: An after-school program for youth in public housing, in grades 8 through 12. Program asks for a 5 year commitment. The program provides life skills workshops with emphasis on improving literacy and math skills, individual counseling and case management services, MCAS and SAT preparation, and assistance with college applications and financial aid forms. The program partners with local employers in "try out" jobs for youth in grades 10 through12. WF sites are in CHA's Roosevelt Towers and Jefferson Park housing developments, and Windsor Street across from Newtowne Court and Washington Elms housing developments.

Program Strengths: Staff revamped and tested a new curriculum for all 5 grades based on outcomes.

- The program has a retention rate of over 80%. 90% of alumni contacted are in college or working.
- The SAT prep and Summer Reading Literacy Camp linked with Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program to provide stipends for participants.
- Having training sites in public housing developments, alumni stop in to talk about their college experience and motivate younger students.

Program Challenges:

- Some program alumni tend to struggle once in college; due to financial burden, 36% of alumni complete bachelor degrees in 6 rather than 4 years.
- This past summer, the Reading Literacy Camp staff saw less academically prepared, less motivated students with difficult attitudes.

Program Changes:

- Program opened a fourth site at the high school and
- had to replace two long term Teacher- Counselors and hire a third for the expansion.
- Intensive SAT prep will be held for 6 weeks in the summer instead of after school and will offer field trips to local colleges and universities.

Trends: Increased enrollment of Ethiopian and Haitian youth. 13% are Latino.

On Target? They have served 177 clients thru 2nd quarter out of its goal of 120.

CAMBRIDGE CAMPING ASSOCIATION (CCA) - Daybreak Day Camp

FY12 Funding: \$15,000 CDBG funds 22% of Daybreak Day Camp

Site visits: 7/20/11 and 10/12/11

Present: Amy Stein, Executive Director, Mia Klinger-Powell, Camp Director,

Jose Soares, Jolyon Cowan DHSP, Christopher Hall, HSC **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** A day camp for children ages 5 through 11 with emotional and behavioral special needs who live in Cambridge or Somerville; program provides supportive, therapeutic summers for children. Families pay a sliding fee scale.

- Over 90% of youth served in the program are from very low-income families who face an array of complex issues; about 30% are from immigrant families; and a high percentage of youth resides in a single-parent household or with guardians (grandparents or foster parents); many are involved with the Department of Children & Families (DCF).
- A large percentage of campers receive special education services for a broad range of diagnoses, such as: ADHD, autism, and bipolar disorders.
- The Guidance Center referred 15 children to Daybreak Day Camp.

Program Update:

- Last summer, Daybreak Day Camp added 3 more days to almost 5 weeks.
- The program maintains a ratio of 2.5 campers per staff; a large percentage of the staff returns to the camp each summer allowing for greater bonding between campers and staff.
- Three former campers returned to the program as counselors thru the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Trends: Families are experiencing more stress due to budget and program cuts and stricter eligibility criteria.

On Target? Last summer, CCA provided camp services to 23 Cambridge youths exceeding their target of 19.

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (CLSACC)-

Homelessness Prevention Program

FY12 Funding: \$20,000 CDBG funds 19% of program

Site visit: 2/1/12

Present: John Froio, Housing Attorney & Barbara Mitchell , Executive Director Jose Soares, DHSP **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**: With a team of staff and volunteer attorneys, the program provides both legal counsel and representation to tenants with housing-related issues to prevent homelessness; and training and consultation to staff at community-based organizations on legal rights of tenants and landlords.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- Over 80% of the cases involve tenants in Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) public or Section 8 subsidized housing.
- The primary factors leading to evictions are loss of employment, unauthorized doubled up families, and behaviors associated with mental illness. Staff handled 34 evictions, 12 of those in court proceedings.
- Staff have enhanced Outreach to prevent homelessness by working with the District Court; the housing unit is provided weekly reports of eviction Summons and Complaints filed at the courthouse thus enabling CLSACC to conduct outreach to these tenants.
- Housing Attorney keeps regular office hours at the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC), which has a long
 history of advocacy for public housing residents.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS:

- The program negotiates 90% of eviction cases resulting in clients retaining their housing, preventing homelessness by delaying the eviction process and securing more time to locate alternate housing.
- Volunteer lawyers and summer law school interns donate several hundred hours each year. Currently, program has 4 volunteer attorneys, an increase of 20% capacity to represent clients.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES:

- Mental illness plays a major factor in clients' ability in maintaining housing.
- Lack of affordable housing.

NEW/ONGOING TRENDS:

Housing attorney sees more demand for legal representation at evictions related to behaviors associated with mental illness. **On Target?** By 2nd guarter they have served 34 clients out of a goal of 60.

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (CLSACC)-Battered Women's/Child Support Advocacy Project

FY12 Funding: \$20,000 CDBG funds 22% of program. CDBG funds support clients who are unable to pay their fees.

Site visit: 2/1/12

Present: Ellen Wilburn, Legal Director, Paul Goldmuntz, Clinical Director, Barbara Mitchell, Executive Director Jose Soares, DHSP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Using a team of staff and volunteers, this program provides legal counsel & representation; individual & group counseling to victims of domestic violence; and legal education training and consultation to staff at community-based organizations. Cases include domestic violence (DV), divorce, custody, child support and alimony. A part-time clinical social worker specializing in victims of DV was hired in the fall.

NEW & EMERGING TRENDS:

- Sustained increase in the number of domestic violence cases; more calls and requests for information.
- Increase in the number of domestic violence clients with multiple needs, such as housing, immigration, jobs, and particularly mental health services;
- Increase in the number of domestic violence cases where the spouse flees the U.S. to avoid paying spousal/child support, leaving the family with little financial support; and
- 1/3 of clients in counseling unit and 50% of clients in legal unit are immigrants.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS:

- Dedicated volunteer lawyers and mental health practitioners donate several thousand hours of their services each year; there are about 46 volunteers in the counseling unit and 15 volunteers in the legal unit.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration between counseling, legal, and immigration services.
- Ongoing participation in High Risk Assessment Team comprised of staff from DA's Office, Police Departments from Arlington, Cambridge, Belmont, The Guidance Center, and various DV service agencies and shelters. Team shares information and strategizes to contain batterer and support victim in high risk cases.
- Increased collaboration with Transition House and Guidance Center. Staff initiated collaboration with MAPS providing monthly family law consults.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES:

- Difficulty in recruitment and retention of qualified volunteers with Masters degrees in counseling and willing to commit to one year.
- Some legally active abusers and complex cases of family law.

On Target? By 2nd quarter they served 28 new clients out of a goal of 32.

CENTRO LATINO

Information & Referral -Interpretation/Translation Services

FY12 Funding: \$18,000 (\$6,000 cut from FY11) CDBG funds 30% of program

Site visit: 10/19/11

Present:

Monique Puig-Antich, Director of Organizational Development, Jose Soares, DHSP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Centro Latino provides information & referral and comprehensive needs assessments, interpretation and translation services to the immigrant Latino population of Cambridge. Most referrals and interpretation services are to CASLS for domestic violence and immigration issues, CHA for housing applications and re-certifications, to food pantries, Fuel Assistance, to the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Transitional Assistance for benefits.

- Agency Update: Monique Puig-Antich, Director of Program Development, left in January 2012.
- Agency received a grant from the Smith Family Foundation to launch a 6 month upper level computer certification (A Plus) program, which at the time of site visit was at capacity.
- Agency, in collaboration with 6 other immigrant service agencies, received a 5 year grant from the Fish Family Foundation to expand its citizenship/naturalization classes.
- ESOL, GED, Literacy classes are at full capacity.

Emerging Trends:

Staff see an increase in domestic violence, immigration, more referrals to food pantries, substance abuse, and less enrollment in the for fee programs. More clients have less English language capacity.

On Target? By 2nd guarter CL reported 72 clients of their 150 target.

East End House, Inc. (EEH) hergency Food Program

FY12 Funding: \$11,000 (\$2,000 cut from FY11) CDBG funds 14% of program

Site visit: 3/8/12

Present: Sam Healy, Senior Director of Children & Family Services, Rebecca Gallo, Director of Program Development, Tim Severyn, Community Programs Director Jose Soares & Jolyon Cowan, DHSP Trends:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: EEH runs an emergency food pantry including infant necessities and delivers food to approximately 26 homebound individuals.

Agency Update:

Outreach to homebound and isolated seniors has intensified and expanded to include a free farmers' market held monthly at Millers' River Apartments, Roosevelt Towers, and Harvard Gardens housing developments; the events are held one Wednesday a month at each of the three sites and provide free food, including fresh produce, meat and eggs.

Emergency Food Program Update:

- The Food Pantry operates 2 days per week for a total of 9 hours weekly and is staffed by 8 core volunteers under the supervision of the Community Programs Director.
- Food pantry provides enough food for 14 days twice a month and distributed 560 turkeys and trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner.
- The program receives grocery items, turkeys, and infant food & necessities from the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) and CEOC; fresh produce from Food For Free (FFF); and food and cash donations from individuals, groups, local businesses, and faith-based organizations.

- Staff saw a drastic increase in food pantry use in December and January.
- More people are using the food pantry for the first time and are signing up for food stamps.

On Target? By 2nd quarter served 613 clients out of their goal of 520.

Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association (ECMAA) Information and Referral (I&R)

Program

FY12 Funding: \$10,000 CDBG funds 33% of program

Site visit: 10/6/11

Present: Binyam Tamene, Executive Director Jose Soares, DHSP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: ECMAA provides information, referral, and support services to immigrants from Ethiopia and refugees from Somalia through direct client service and a weekly radio program.

Program Updates:

- Agency staff continues to collaborate with Ethiopian staff at the high school to coordinate services for Ethiopian students and their families.
- Assistance with job search/training (in collaboration with Career Source), applications for unemployment and subsidized housing have increased.
- Radio program remains an effective medium to convey information to the Ethiopian community on immigration updates, jobs, education, housing, and available services in the community. Occasional guest speakers are invited to discussions followed by call in. Program director interprets during program.
- Agency director sees ongoing need for translation of documents for submission to the School Department, Immigration & Naturalization Service, Social Security Administration, and Cambridge Housing Authority.
- State funding for HIV/Aids education was cut leading to a 10% cut in the agency's budget.

Trends:

- Increase in immigration from Ethiopia through the "Diversity Visa Lottery" program.
- Many families are doubled up and live in overcrowded conditions.
- Many wage earners are holding two/three jobs to make ends meet.
- More stress among family members given the economic climate.

On Target? By 2nd quarter, 48 new clients were served out of a target of 56.

Food For Free Committee, Inc. (FFF)

2 Programs:

1-Home Delivery Program, 2-Produce Rescue & Distribution Program

FY12 Funding: \$20,000 (Home Delivery) 56% of program \$20,000 (Produce Rescue) 11% of program

Site visit: 9/28/11

Present: David R. Leslie, Executive Director & Michelle Holcomb, Development Director Jose Soares, DHSP

mittee, Inc. Programs Descriptions:

- 1. Home Delivery Program provides monthly deliveries of boxes of food to 60 homebound seniors and persons with disabilities. Each client receives a delivery of 1 box of 40-50 pounds of food each month about 50% of this is fresh produce.
- 2. Produce Rescue & Distribution Program collects and distributes salvaged produce to 59 Cambridge-based food programs.

Home Delivery Program Update:

• A part-time Administrative Assistant was hired to liaise with social workers at the Cambridge Housing Authority elderly developments and to schedule and track home deliveries.

Produce Rescue Update:

- FFF purchased a new refrigerated truck with private grants.
- So far this year, the program has delivered 472,000 pounds of food, out of its proposed target of 600,000 for the fiscal year;
- Agency staff enhanced its food suppliers by recruiting new food donors collecting food from 8 farmers markets, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, and from three local farms and a bakery.
- Program delivers to food pantries, all After School programs, AIDS Action Committee/Peer Support Program, and Centro Latino/Drop-in Program, a total of 59 food programs in Cambridge.

Trends:

- First thing families cut back in hard economic times are fresh fruits and vegetables. Increased demand for fresh produce.
- More working poor people are coming to food pantries.

On Target? By the 2nd quarter, the Home Delivery program exceeded its target of 60 having served 63 clients;

Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc. (GBLS)

The Cambridge Abuse Prevention Project (CAPP)

FY12 Funding: \$15,000 CDBG funds 68% of program

Site visit: 1/25/2012

Present: Lisa Locher, Staff Attorney, Jose Soares, Jolyon Cowan, DHSP

Program Description: The Cambridge Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) provides legal counsel and representation; community education/training; services to stop the retaliatory actions of batterers; ongoing coordination with the Middlesex Domestic Violence Project and, with pro-bono attorneys, assistance with District Court restraining orders. **Updates:**

- Senior Paralegal, Paula Starr, covers the Cambridge Court. She also collaborates with the CPD high risk team.
- GBLS has partnered with Mintz & Levin and Ropes & Gray law firms receiving legal assistance from Associates.
- Most referrals are from Transition House and Guidance Center.

Trends:

- The number of clients with multiple needs, both legal and non-legal, continues to increase; many clients are referred to the benefits and housing units for legal representation.
- 40% of clients, victims of batterers, have immigration issues. In these cases, Family Law Attorney works closely with the immigration unit.
- More clients are experiencing financial hardship and considering bankruptcy.
- More Haitian families are being referred; there is a greater need for Haitian interpreters.

On Target? By 2nd quarter CAP has served 20 new clients meeting its goal of 20.

Riverside Community Care-The Guidance Center, Inc.

Early Intervention (EI) Services for Linguistic Minorities

FY12 Funding: \$18,000 (\$2,000 cut from FY11) CDBG funds 3.3% of program

Site visit: 2/29/12

Present: Lee King, Director of Early

Childhood Services

Megan Postal, Assistant Director, Jose Soares & Jolyon Cowan, DHSP

Program Description: The Guidance Center provides Early Intervention (EI) services to Cambridge families with infants and toddlers (up to 3 years of age) with special needs or at-risk. Services include outreach, intake and assessment, comprehensive developmental evaluations, ongoing support services and access to essential basic needs. The Guidance Center runs 9 parent/child groups per week.

Program Strengths:

- El services are provided in home visits, child care centers, shelters, and parent-child groups;
- Children participating in the EI program are likely to be more successful in pre-schools; and
- Families participating in the EI program are more likely to develop coping skills essential in supporting and advocating for their children.
- Program serves a diverse population who speak over 15 languages, but mainly Portuguese, Spanish, Haitian Kreol, Hindi, and Arabic.
- Ongoing Collaboration with the Community Learning Center's Community Engagement Team in outreach and recruitment of parents.

Program Challenges:

- Qualified and experienced staff leave for better jobs with higher salaries in the public schools and medical sector. This leads to valuable time spent in hiring, training and supervising new employees.
- It is difficult to find qualified bilingual clinicians.
- A few clients suffer from chaotic, difficult lives and the stresses of poverty and are unable to keep appointments.

Trends:

El staff are seeing:

- More clients from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.
- An increase in domestic violence, substance abuse, and housing issues.
- More referrals from the Department of Children and Families of children with early signs of autism and children needing speech therapy. There is a wait list for speech therapy services.

On Target? The Early Intervention program exceeded its goal of 192; by 2nd quarter reported 254 new clients.

Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) Immigrant Social Services

FY12 Funding: \$18,000 (\$6,000 cut from FY11) CDBG funds 46% of program

Site Visit: 9/26/11

Present:

Maria Matos, Case

Jose Soares, DHSP

Worker/Supervisor of Immigrant Social Services, Beatriz Maimone, Director of Clinical & Supportive Services,

public benefits, housing, and immigration/citizenship. The program serves mostly elderly Portuguese and younger immigrant families from Brazil and Cape-Verde. Updates:

- There is an increase in referrals from health clinics of clients needing to apply for health insurance.
- Many clients turn to MAPS for assistance with applications for Food Stamps, Social Security and disability benefits, MassHealth, employment, and with the yearly subsidized housing re-certification process; translation of documents for the Cambridge Public Schools and Immigration & Naturalization Services; negotiation with utility companies to arrange payment plans.

Program Description: MAPS provides information & referral, interpretation, and advocacy with the application process for

- The Case Worker escorts clients to interpret at medical appointments, immigration interviews (INS) and to their oath to citizenship ceremonies.
- In collaboration with the Fuel Assistance office, MAPS is provided with application forms to be completed for clients at the MAPS office.

Trends:

Staff see:

- Ongoing need for affordable housing, as families continue to double-up and live in crowded apartments;
- Increase in evictions for non-payment of rent and referrals to The Multi Service Center for financial assistance and to legal services for legal assistance.
- Increase in applications for fuel assistance and food stamps.
- There is a noticeable increase in mental health issues and substance abuse among young unemployed men.

On Target? MAPS has exceeded its target of 60 by serving 67 clients at the end of 2nd guarter.

Young People's Project (YPP)

Math Literacy Worker Outreach Program

FY12 Funding: \$10,000 (\$5,000 cut from FY11) CDBG funds 5% of program

Site visit: 10/5/11

Present:

Kessen Green, Program Director, Chad Milner, National Coordinator, Lady C, Program Coordinator, Jose Soares & Jolyon Cowan, DHSP

Program Description: YPP provides math literacy training and employment opportunities to 30 Cambridge High School students (stipends are provided), and academic enrichment. YPP runs math workshops and math family nights at the Cambridge Community Center, King Open School, Boys & Girls Club, East End House, and at the Fletcher Maynard School. By participating in training and outreach activities, youths develop social skills, public speaking, and classroom presentation/facilitation skills.

Once in the program, participants are required to enroll in:

- o An intensive session in the summer, a total of 48 hours of training and professional development;
- o Two-week session in the fall, total of 12 hours of training;
- o Two-week session in the winter/spring, total of 12 hours of training.

Program Changes: YPP is reorganizing its staff due to 20% staff cuts and 30% cut in private foundation grants. Selledia Ball, long time lead trainer, left in the fall.

Program strengths:

- Focus on preparation of 7th and 8th graders to pass Algebra 1 before entering high school.
- Participants have successfully promoted the program/organization mission during trips/events across the country;
- YPP continues to collaborate with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, Workforce Development, Youth Works and High School officials in serving Cambridge youth.

Retention Rate: Approximately 50% of youth complete the Math Literacy Worker training and remain in the program for 2 years; about 50% of youth return to YPP every year.

Program Challenges: Due to funding cuts, YPP was unable to hire sufficient college students as trainers.

Funding Sources: YPP received \$1.1 million from the National Science Foundation for the upcoming 3 years.

On Target? YPP served 12 participants at the end of 2nd quarter out of a goal of 30.

SCM Transportation Services for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities.

FY12 Funding: \$18,000 (\$2,000 CDBG cut from FY11, however City funds made up for the cut) CDBG funds 18% of program

Site Visit: 11/3/11

Present: Reed Cochran, Executive Director, Deborah Shemano, Operations Manager, Jose Soares, DHSP

Program Description: SCM Provides medical rides and nutritional shopping trips to elders and persons with disabilities, thereby supporting independent living among this population.

Updates:

- With the volatility of gas prices, SCM instituted a surcharge fee. The program is managing gas prices as they budgeted for \$5/gallon.
- Demand for medical rides has increased.
- Rides to people over 60 for food shopping at Market Basket and Johnny's Food Master have leveled off, in part because of people's shopping preferences.
- Brochures are distributed in Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Kreol.

Fundina:

- SCM lost its Hallmark funding, 7% of its budget, having to lay off 2 employees; however this does not affect Cambridge riders.
- SCM received \$300,000 from the state to participate in regional transportation planning and coordination.
- Last year SCM collected \$20,000 in riders' donations and
- Participated in the Taste of Somerville raising \$30,000.

Trends: Seniors remaining in their homes tend to be more isolated and prone to depression and substance abuse. On Target? SCM served 255 new clients by 2nd quarter out of a target of 300.

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood **House-** Emergency Food Pantry

FY12 Funding: \$20,000 CDBG funds 31% of food pantry

Site visit: 1/19/2012

Director, Jose Soares, DHSP

The Emergency Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food per visit to families and individuals residing primarily in the Area 4, Washington Elms and Newtown Court (CHA housing developments), 90% of recipients are minorities and 50% are immigrants.

Program Update:

- Pantry is open one evening, one afternoon and two mornings including Saturday, a total of 14 hours per week serving an average of 1,300 people a month; It provided 400 Thanksgiving baskets including turkeys.
- Foods are purchased at Greater Boston Food Bank and fresh produce at other wholesalers; CEOC provides Thanksgiving turkeys; Food For Free delivers all food products to pantry. Shaws Market at Porter Square donates non-perishable foods.
- Present: Barbara R. Kibler, Executive FEMA funding was cut in half. Pantry is relying more on food donations from Shaws Market in Porter Square.

Trends:

- Staff has seen an increase of Haitian new clients in the past year: female head of households with young children, and elderly.
- There is an increase in families returning to the pantry more than once in the course of the month requesting more food.
- Unmet Needs: infant food and diapers; clients' requests for more dairy, meat, and personal care items such as soap. On Target? By the 2nd Quarter, served 2990 clients surpassing the goal of 2300.