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## **Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)**

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006

6:30-8:30 pm

@ the Woman's Club

**Attendance:** Dick and Jan Sandberg (Loring Green East), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Pat Havenstein (228 Clifton), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police SAFE), Judge Richard Hopper (Hennepin County judge for the Community and Mental Health courts), Diane Hanson (apartment owner, Becky Gullickson (301 Clifton), Neil Carlson (Summit House), Diane Hansen (26 Oak Grove), Kim Malrick (Restorative Justice), Dan Miller (1300 Yale Place), Becky Gullickson, Josie Shardlow (Whittier Alliance), Carl Hamm (Downtown Journal)

### **I. 6:30-6:35 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Minutes—Dick Sandberg**

Livability Chair Dick Sandberg led introductions of the 15 persons in attendance. The minutes from February and March are deferred to the May meeting.

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Luther Krueger, Minneapolis Police SAFE**

- Inspector Allen has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Patrol. Lt. Harteau (Sector 2 Lieutenant for the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct and previously a SAFE officer) was promoted to Inspector, which is rarely done within the same precinct. Cathy Waite will become the new Sector 2 Lieutenant. There will be a celebration on May 1, 11:30 a.m., at the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct office.
- Luther congratulated the community on the response to impact statements. There have been over 200 returned for the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct since mid-February, more than the rest of precincts combined.
- Luther has been appointed to the Commission to End Homelessness. Luther is on the group working with the single homeless, who have the most frequent interaction with law enforcement.
- Crime issues in the last month are mostly in Elliot Park. There was a building on 15th St in Loring Park that had a problematic back exit used by loiterers but the owner has secured the area.
- There has been a noise complaint about Shakers (stemming from amplified music inside) and Shakers will get a warning letter.

#### **Kim Malrick, Restorative Justice**

- Restorative Justice has just started a direct referral system with the police in the first precinct. She distributed statistics from the first precinct.

### **II. Substance Abuse Treatment in Minnesota: Does it need a Fix?—Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor**

Joel Alter described the nonpartisan Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). The Legislature asked OLA to look at substance abuse treatment programs in Minnesota's prisons and communities and determine if they are working. The report found:

Broad claims—positive or negative—about the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment are misleading. Research has produced mixed evidence, with some studies showing that certain types

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of treatment can achieve positive client outcomes, while others have little evidence of effectiveness.

The Department of Human Services has not provided enough oversight of county practices to ensure that clients are placed in appropriate treatment, nor has it done enough to foster the development of sufficient treatment options to effectively meet clients' needs statewide.

Despite uniform placement criteria, there is wide variation in counties' use of publicly-funded substance abuse treatment for low income persons, and the treatment clients receive depends partly on where they live.

Inmates who complete substance abuse treatment programs in prison have lower overall arrest and conviction rates following release than (1) inmates who complete short education programs, and (2) untreated inmates. However, Minnesota prisons do not have enough capacity in their substance abuse treatment programs to serve all of the inmates who need treatment.

Few inmates deemed chemically dependent by prison staff enroll in treatment upon release from prison, which partly reflects inadequate planning by state and local corrections officials to address inmates' post-prison treatment needs.

For a copy of the full report see: <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2006/subabuse.htm>

### **Discussion:**

Questions included why a prisoner would not complete a program, how to minimize repeat placements (many people go through programs repeatedly), and impact of reductions in the Consolidated Fund on the number of placements following the tightening of eligibility.

Judge Hopper said that most of the offenders that he sees have been through treatment, some are brain-damaged either because of drug abuse or from accidents (which may make them more susceptible to drug abuse). It is very complicated to try to understand the population that uses treatment over and over. Judge Hopper thinks that (1) treatment needs to be longer, (2) there has to be discharge planning (where to go next), and (3) those in prison have likely gone through treatment many times (in Minnesota it is relatively hard to get into prison). Drug treatment is different from mental illness where there has to be a discharge plan although it is just a paper plan and when offenders get out, they come to the urban area. Even if all criminals in the urban core stopped offending, there would be new criminals coming in each year as they are discharged from prison. This means that there needs to be really serious supervision in the community. Not all treatment options are residential, the assignment depends on the outcome of the Rule 25 hearing that the judge orders. The assessments are done too quickly and there is considerable individual discretion. The programs are very different. Some are not a good fit with the low level that some people are functioning. Some offenders do not want to be released from prison. The Minnesota Model does not work with some offenders and those in the field believe that they need more options.

Question whether the choice of inappropriate treatment options is a function of the need to save money and fit within a budget? There are prohibitions in the rules against conflict of interest or similar. Joel Alter said that there are lots of reasons that offenders may not be directed to the "best" option. For example, staff may be more willing to recommend what they know and may have less information about specialized programs that exist in only a few places. There is no statewide inventory of treatment programs that might help county staff understand the focus of different programs, staffing levels, and similar. Beyond that, clients may respond differently to different individual treatment staff. Programs serve lots of different people--corrections orders nearly half of all placements, the rest come from private referrals, both doctors and families.

Judge Hopper asked about harm-reduction models (these models do not require complete abstinence from the problem drug). Joel Alter said that abstinence may not be the best goal for some clients and some screeners will only refer to abstinence-based programs. Judge Hopper said that Hennepin County is

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increasing use of the harm-reduction programs or wet-dry facilities . The thought is that reduction in use of emergency rooms, jail, and detox is a measure of success than abstinence. Luther pointed out that his first partner said that some offenders need a clubhouse.

As another example, Joel Alter pointed out good research supporting the use of methadone maintenance as a treatment for heroin use. Methadone is an opiate with success measured as harm reduction. However, some counties will not accept this type of program.

Joel Alter said that it is hard to compare states on some of these issues. The metropolitan area has options and programs, more so than outstate Minnesota.. Minnesota probably has as many or more options than other states but the real issue is whether they are effective options.

Jana asked about faith-based or mentor programs. Judge Hopper said that the county welcomes additional options--some provide additional support to ensure compliance.

Neil Carlson mentioned that discharging persons from mental illness institutions has created more problems. Judge Hopper said that historically there was pressure to reduce hospital costs as well as aversion to putting people into state institutions. He sees people that should be in the hospital but the hospital options don't exist. As it is, Hennepin County is accused of overusing the Anoka Regional Treatment Center—many of those sent there are ultimately not committed because the standard for commitment is too high. There need to be local supervised places for people to live and get their medication. The Hennepin Court is working with a nearby reporting center to build wrap-around services for some of the mentally ill. One idea is to pay landlords directly and give the landlord a direct line to support services. Catholic Charities and Salvation Army do a great job but they are temporary options.

Dick asked about the three-strikes law for felonies. Judge Hopper said that Hennepin County is already feeling the effect from other states. An offender get his or her two-strikes in another state and move here. Half of the downtown offenders that offend most often are from Illinois. As to the possibility of a Minnesota three-strikes law, Joel Alter said that Minnesota has a low prison population but this means that you need to support probation services. Judge Hopper mentioned a downtown offender previously committed in Ah Gwa Ching on Judge Hopper's order, was released to his brother in Minneapolis--the state said that he belonged in the community. There is no political will to help out Minneapolis and build more prison facilities.

On the plus side, Judge Hopper presides over the Community Court and the Mental Health Court. The focus of the Mental Health Court is to try to intercede with those individuals who are mentally ill and are cycling through the system. The court deals with lower level offenses, currently there are about 200 persons in the system, with the goal to manage the offender's behavior, get him or her on medications and keep them on medications--essentially set up program backed up by consequences if the offender does not comply. Judge Hopper sees lots of causes for mental health problems, including brain injuries and bipolar disorder--about half also have a drug problems (they self-medicate). Some people that he sees in court have seldom been in trouble and have good family support systems. At the other end of the spectrum are those offenders who are essentially criminals who require time in the workhouse and more supervision.

### **Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.**

For May?

180 Degrees

John Dejung and information about the 911 system—invite other neighborhood groups to attend.