



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ February 2003

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Civic Involvement Center

CRSP News

The **CRSP annual report** is in the process of being completed. Highlights for the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001 include:

- Provided informational & referral and conflict resolution services for nearly 30 siting situations serving over 1700 people. These situations range from the siting of a group home for people with a mental illness, to the siting of transitional housing for individuals recovering from a drug and alcohol addiction, to a group home for persons with developmental disabilities. On average, each siting case involves around 40 people and lasts for approximately two and half months.
- Worked with the Community Residential Siting Advisory Committee (CRSAC) to develop Site Selection Guidelines for the siting of Post Incarceration Facilities (PIFs). These guidelines serve as a framework to involve community members in the siting decisions of a PIF. The guidelines also offer volunteer siting criteria, including distances from high concentration of vulnerable populations as well as ensuring that PIFs have access to public transportation and other supportive services.
- Advocated for the inclusion of a process to address the siting of Community Residential Facilities throughout various Community Plans; including Urban Renewal Areas and the Northwest Area Plan.
- Continued to implement an outreach strategy to inform citizens about the CRSP and other siting-related issues and perspectives. This includes facilitating or assisting in organizing over 70 outreach events that provide education and information about Fair Housing Law, land use issues, special needs populations, and siting perspectives.
- Trained mediation/facilitation volunteers have contributed to nearly 300 hours of conflict resolution services for the CRSP.

Neighborhood Involvement

- **Portland State University Interns:** **Brian Hoop** has recruited several new student interns. First focus will be on doing research for the public involvement standards taskforce on case studies, best practices and policies from other cities, outreach to neighborhood associations and communities of color, etc. Next will help recruit interns for coalition offices.
- **Pioneer Courthouse Square ice rink Proposal:** Brian is working on workshops with five of the neighborhood coalition offices and the Courthouse Square operators to organize four

community workshops to provide public information and receive feedback. The initial workshop in East Portland went very well with 20 people in attendance.

- **ONI Guidelines committee - GREAT:** The Committee is making significant progress on reviewing and revising standards for neighborhood associations. The group continues to gather public input and will send out drafts as they progress for input before finalizing and sending to Council for approval. We sent out an educational mailing to over 150 community organizations of color to solicit feedback and involvement on redefining the “communities beyond neighborhood boundaries” policy.
- **Citywide Public Involvement Standards Taskforce:** A planning group of 10 staff and citizens assisted with organizing the structure of this new taskforce. We will be holding a February 25 workshop to initiate the taskforce, which will develop recommendations for Council adoption of public involvement standards for City bureaus to follow.
- **Citizen Involvement Handbook:** Three draft sections are completed: Making Room at the Table, Developing and Maintaining the Organization, and Creating the Formal Structure. We will be working with SEUL to review and make changes.
- **Miracles Club:** Brian is continuing the dialogue with King Neighborhood Association and Miracles Club on ways to build community outreach and problem-solving efforts relating to racial tensions and land use issues in the community. Working with John Canda at NECN.
- **River Renaissance:** Joleen Jensen-Classen will be participating in Bureau of Planning meetings to develop policies relating to River Renaissance public involvement efforts.

Crime Prevention Center

Farewell to Eddie Collins...

After 25 years and 5 months of service, Eddie Collins is retiring from his post as a proud ONI employee and city civil servant to the residents of Portland. “The years have passed rather quickly and suddenly, the time has now arrived for me to cast my focus towards a new horizon and another adventure,” says Eddie. “I have enjoyed my time working for the City of Portland, its residents, and with each and every one of you here at ONI. Please continue to walk proudly and uphold the rich ONI tradition of excellence in ONI's every day service delivery to Portland's public. The ONI team is an excellent team, ‘from the director's office to the door’. I will always proudly and fondly remember my time in ONI, and always maintain, in spirit, my membership on the ONI team!” **Best of luck to Eddie in all his future endeavors.**

- On January 11, 2003, Marcia Dennis attended the **Violence-Proofing Our Kids Conference**, co-sponsored by Ceasefire Oregon and Oregon Consumer League. Two keynote speakers were Andrés Soto, Policy Director for the Trauma Foundation of San Francisco, and Eric Gorovitz, public health lawyer and Policy Director of the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. The Hands Are Not for Hurting Project ; Ron Bloodworth, Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Oregon Dept of Human Services; Dr. David Bliss, Medical Director of Pediatric Trauma at Legacy Emanuel Hospital; and Joanne Fairchild, R.N., co-founder of “Trauma Nurses Talk Tough”, the injury prevention program at Legacy Emanuel, and others presented on violence reduction strategies. The consistent message was that guns are too accessible to kids and too many homes in Oregon (more than 50%) have the deadly combination of unsecured guns, and curious children.
- **A.S.K. (Asking Saves Kids)** is a national advertising campaign that is sponsored in this state by Ceasefire Oregon. The simple mission of A.S.K. is to urge parents to ask their neighbors if they have a gun in the house, before sending their child over to play. On the

Ceasefire Oregon website, www.ceasefireoregon.org/ask, the A.S.K. page has 'Tips to make ASKing Easier' and 'Take the ASK Pledge'.

Metropolitan Human Rights Center (MHRC)

- The **ONI Diversity Committee** is in the final stages of developing a draft cultural competency survey to be presented to ONI management team and staff for input and implementation. The survey is part of a larger process that ONI will undertake to determine where it can improve in this area.
- We are working with the NAACP and the Coalition Against Hate Crimes to coordinate **community responses to the Martin Luther King weekend shooting spree** in NE Portland. There will be a press event on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at 10:00 AM, location TBA; a town hall meeting at the Mallory Avenue Church on Monday, Feb. 3rd at 6:30 PM and a march and rally on Saturday, Feb. 8th – start time 11: AM, location TBA. We'll send out a press release to "ONI All" as soon as we have all the information.
- Amalia is serving as an advisor to an **anti-racism discussion group** made up of self-described white women who are social service providers primarily working in communities of color. This is a research project that will continue into the fall and has possible implications for replication.
- **Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG)**: We received an overwhelming response, over 500, to the BTAG survey on the community's priorities for the SW Stark St. neighborhood. Group has done outreach to the Pearl and Downtown neighborhood associations and is planning more outreach to the downtown business community.
- **Interwoven Tapestry Project**: Brian is nearing completion of the Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries resource handbook/directory of nearly 250 community based organizations. We have received a great response from efforts to get updated information through phone calls and business reply mailings. Identifying 6 neighborhood associations that MHRC will work intensively with on developing action steps for building relationships with other community groups, more diverse memberships and leadership. Brian made a presentation to the Interwoven Tapestry Project staff on the purpose of the Communities beyond Neighborhood Boundaries policy.
- **Also...** Interwoven Tapestry is gearing up for a whole new set of **small grants**. We are currently tightening up the RFP process and hope to have the announcement out to the community in the next month. As with the grants last year, we will be awarding a maximum of \$2000 each to a select group of fully collaborative partnerships between a neighborhood organization and a refugee or immigrant group or individual. Call **Amalia Alarcon-Gaddie** for further information.
- **Increasing access**: We worked with Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program's staff to translate the "What is a Neighborhood Program?" flyer into Vietnamese.
- **Refugee & Immigrant Program Work Plan**: Amalia and **Paul Duong** Convened a community meeting to discuss priorities for a work plan for the Refugee and Immigrant Coordination Program. The top suggestion was to recruit and convene a visible, active Advisory Group for the program that would help conduct outreach. Paul will be working on this with the goal of having the group up and running by the start of the new fiscal year.
- **Youth Leadership Conference**: Sent contribution solicitation letters to 12 corporations to raise funds for the Eleventh Annual Asian-American Youth Leadership Conference and continued to work with community-based organizations to organize this Conference, which is scheduled for May 14, 2003 at Lewis and Clark College.

Neighborhood Mediation Center (NMC)

Resolutions Northwest, a mediation organization that has been operating in Multnomah County since 1985, will be taking over operations of the Neighborhood Mediation Center beginning February 3, 2003. They will be providing the same level of services and will maintain the same contact phone numbers. If you have access to the Internet, you can learn more about Resolutions Northwest at their website: <http://www.resolutionsnorthwest.org/>.

Administration Center

- **Budget process:** In the first step of the budget process, called the "requested budget", city bureaus have been asked to submit budgets which reflect a 2.2% cut from current service levels; for ONI, this amounts to approximately \$85,000. Both the Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Employee-Management Budget Advisory Committee (EMBAC) are considering the use of projected savings from the contracting out of mediation services to meet this cut.
- **More on the budget process:** The "Requested Budget" will be submitted on February 12th, at which time the Bureau of Financial Planning and the Mayor's Office begin their extensive review process. At this point, the mayor begins to assess what she is and isn't willing to cut -- ONI could see a reduction or increase in cuts, or there could be no change at all.
- **In case you were wondering even more about the budget...** Council Budget Work Sessions occur in late March and early April and the Mayor's "Proposed Budget" is slated for release on April 29th.

Information and Referral (I&R) Center

- **Phone system transition:** January was a very busy month for the I&R group. We answered about 14,000 calls for the month and continue to do our best with the phone system being in transition. The 11-digit dialing continues and we await our new ACD system, which should arrive in the next couple months. We will not make our 90% goal again this month and likely won't make it again until we get the phone system switched over and we are able to return to 5 digit dialing.
- **Database update:** We are finishing up with our most recent round of database updates. We try and complete these updates once every 4 months. We have now gotten Nell involved with a couple of bureau assignments.
- **Information sheets:** We have also completed updating all of our various org charts and bureau/dept info sheets. If anyone needs an org chart of the city or county, list of directors, etc. call I&R and we would be happy to share!
- **Media database:** We began working on creating/updating a media database. This database will be a complete listing of all local media outlets including print, TV and radio. This contact list can be used by ONI or any City Bureau to notify the media of events. Nell has been going through the Finder Binder publication to start the compilation of these

sources. We will eventually get all this data into the ONI Access Database and program into the Fax machine once it has all been verified.

- **211 implementation:** John attended a Portland Metro Area 211 meeting this month. The 211 service would provide a single number to access social services throughout Oregon. There appears to finally be some momentum building behind this movement for a 211 implementation in Oregon. The United Way and AIRS are putting some resources into making things happen. The United Way hired Liesl Wendt to coordinate the efforts to establish a 211 service in the Portland Metro Area. The group is currently working with the Governor, local State reps and local County and City officials to get support for this initiative. They have also applied for a grant with the Gates Foundation. At the meeting were folks from several different organizations and we brainstormed ideas around what it would take to make this successful with regards to technology, public policy and marketing. It is evident that there is much work to be done but the idea of a single number to access social services from anywhere is a powerful enough idea that I believe will come to fruition.

Coalition Information

SWNI News

- **Ideas for fundraising:** SWNI's fundraising plan for this fiscal year is bringing in some very needed dollars. Here are a few examples. SWNI's annual fundraising letter, inserted into the October newsletter issue, has now generated approximately \$6,183, thanks to some very generous contributions. Our goal was \$6,000. The ink cartridge fundraising-recycling program is bringing in additional dollars and people love the idea. SWNI recently received a \$600 check from Volunteers of America for a vehicle donation from one of our volunteers. To date, we have sold over 1,175 Southwest Walking Maps that means our Trails Group has raised over \$3,525 for trail improvements.
- **Naturescaping Program:** As you may know, SWNI has a contract with BES to coordinate the Naturescaping program citywide. All the classes offered were filled this fall and very successful. A special Naturescaping Basic Workshop will be offered at the Home & Garden Show on Sat., Feb. 22, at the Expo Center, from 9AM until 1PM. If you or your neighborhood is interested in hosting a class this spring, contact Betty McArdle at 503-823-2862; or to register to take a class call 503-797-1842.
- **February 5th - Drinking Water Security:** As part of another contract with BES, SWNI is staffing the Watershed Resource Center located in the Southwest Community Center (SW 45th and Vermont). Every first Wednesday of the month we offer free presentations about watersheds. In February, Todd Humphrey, a lead member of the Water Bureau's Security team, will discuss what the Portland Water Bureau does, and plans to do, to ensure the safety of our water supply, especially since September 11, 2001. The presentations are held in the multi-purpose room of the Southwest Community Center, at 7 pm.