

Peters, Tammy

From: Noel, Laura
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 11:43 AM
To: Clingan, William; Peters, Tammy
Subject: FW: Follow up information from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Inc. -- Please share with Commissioners
Attachments: 2009 - 2010 Client Demographics.pdf

Please include in the packet for the CSC tonight.

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From: Shannon Barry [mailto:shannonb@abuseintervention.org]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 3:33 PM
To: O'Donnell, Mary
Cc: Noel, Laura
Subject: Follow up information from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Inc. -- Please share with Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide answers to your questions about the 2011/2012 funding request from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Inc. (DAIS). I wanted to provide you with some follow up information that I did not include in my original statement out of concern for keeping my answers brief.

As you may or may not know, DAIS is currently in the midst of pre-Capital Campaign planning for a new building. Our shelter is the smallest per capita in the entire state of Wisconsin. We have only 25 beds to serve the needs of a county where more than 3,000 cases of domestic violence are reported every year. These 25 beds are in six bedrooms meaning that families must share rooms with other families in severe crisis. Obviously, this is not ideal for anyone and our shelter is an uncomfortable environment for **every single** resident that comes through our doors despite the best efforts of our staff and volunteers to make it welcoming. It is our intention, as we plan for a new building, to engage the advice of providers from culturally specific domestic violence programs about how spaces in the new building could be arranged to be as welcoming as possible to all victims of domestic violence. We spoke with Freedom, Inc. staff, and staff from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence on Monday, August 16th about our hopes for their input during our building planning process. I have a meeting with UNIDOS next week to make the same request of their staff and volunteers.

We also plan to ask current and former clients of our services for their input. We have a number of former clients who volunteer for us in some capacity. If a former client is interested in volunteering as a direct service advocate (i.e. providing services to other clients) we ask that they consider waiting a year from receiving services so that they are not re-traumatized by hearing another victim's story. However, former clients can begin volunteering immediately in many of our non-direct service activities.

I am certainly happy to arrange a tour of our shelter for any member of the Community Services Commission so that you can see firsthand the pressing need for a new building. We typically need at least a week to plan for any potential tours for community members and other service providers in order to give our residents ample notice so that they can make the decision about whether or not to be home during the tour. Under Wisconsin statute, domestic violence programs

have very strict confidentiality requirements. DAIS is required to protect the confidentiality of every single person we serve which is why we cannot permit unexpected guests in the shelter.

In the attached document (which I handed out during the meeting), I neglected to mention that this comparison shows year end totals for 2009 and totals for only the first two quarters of 2010. One of the things that I did not mention but which I find interesting is that already in 2010, we have served as many Asian and Southeast Asian clients as we did in all of 2009. Though we certainly recognize that we must continue to strive to make our services more accessible to all clients, I hope that this data is indicative of a shift based on the goal the DAIS staff identified in January of better serving the Southeast Asian community. As I mentioned during my verbal testimony, DAIS recognizes that every single domestic violence victim has a unique set of barriers to achieving safety, whether it be their immigration status, sexual orientation, professional standing in the community, geography (i.e. rural versus urban), language barriers, as well as a myriad of other issues. It is our goal to meet as many of these needs as possible with the limited resources that we have.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions of me regarding DAIS services.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Shannon

Shannon Barry, MSSW

Executive Director

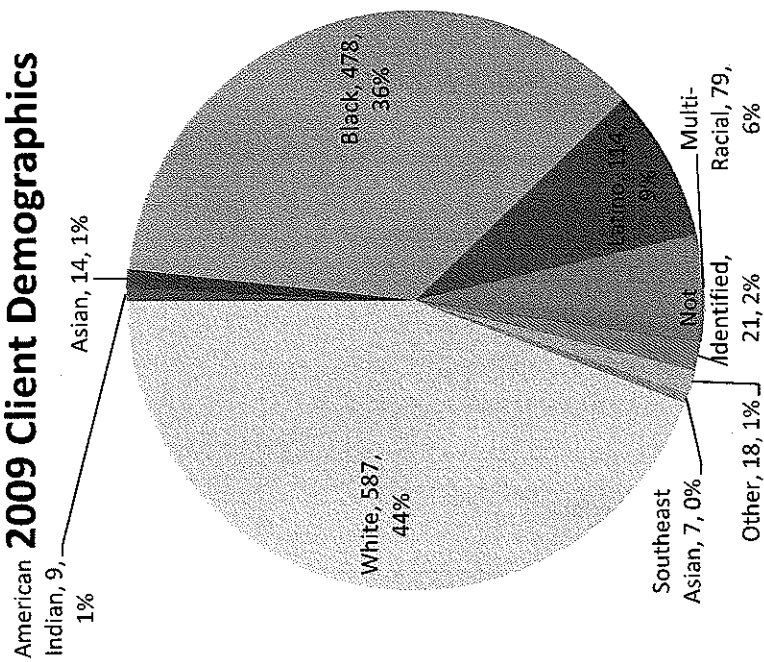
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Thank you for your support of a world where

Peace Begins at Home

2009 Client Demographics



2010 Client Demographics

