

Southeast Asian Elders and Individuals

Re: CITY OF MADISON COMMON COUNCIL
2019 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT
Southeast Asian Elders and Individuals

January 7, 2019

Dear City of Madison Common Council,

We, the Southeast Asian elders and individuals, are sad to hear that Madison Mayor Paul R. Soglin has decided to propose a non-competitive service contract to fund Anesis Center for Marriage and Family Therapy for \$115,000 to serve Southeast Asian elders and individuals with mental health needs. Many nights, we went to your hearings to share our story so we can raise funds. Yet now you have dishonored us by giving these funds to someone else.

We would like the Common Council to know that none of us has ever worked with Anesis Center. As survivors of war and other trauma, our community is used to being exploited and torn apart. Trust is a principle we highly value. The staff at the Southeast Asian Healing Center have been with us for the last 18 years. They understand our needs and issues and provide culturally and linguistically specific services. We trust those who've worked tirelessly to help us rebuild our lives in the U.S. Anesis has never worked with us nor outreached to our community.

We want to work with an agency that we can trust and that understands our problems.

There is a lot of conflicting information that has taken place over the last three months after the Kajsiab House and Cambodian Healing Temple was closed. Many of us came to testify at the Common Council to bring attention about City funding. However, the funds did not come to support us. Though Anesis and Hmong Institute received the gap services funding from the City and County, Anesis has not been able to provide the services intended for us because we do not trust them and we will not go to them for services. They were also dishonest about their role in the transition to a new program because we thought they were acting as our representative. Southeast Asian elders and individuals continue to be without funding for services. Anesis failed to work with the community and the elders. If the Common Council decides to provide funds to Anesis, we will not be served.

We provided our signature below as proof. We are happy to meet with the Common Council to provide you more information.

Please do not give the \$115,000 to Anesis Therapy.

Sincerely,

Southeast Asian elders

Southeast Asian Elders and Individuals
Re: CITY OF MADISON COMMON COUNCIL
2019 Operation Budget Amendment

Signature page 2

Southeast Asian elders and individuals Date 1/7/2019

1. Kong Xiong
2. Pa Yang
3. Vang Soua LOR
4. Xao Cha
5. See Vang
6. Chor VUC
7. chai yang
8. Quang Can
9. Dou Thao
10. Kia yang
11. Chong T. Xiong
12. Saitem LOR
13. Mgo Vong
14. BLIATHAO
15. Xee Lee
16. SIA VRANG
17. mai K Vwe
18. Nhoxiong
19. Vaxiong

20. JOHNYER VANG

21. yee xiong

22. TRUP Vang

MEEVUE

VERLEE

CHANCELEE

DIA LVANG

Southeast Asian Elders and Individuals
Re: CITY OF MADISON COMMON COUNCIL
2019 Operation Budget Amendment

Signature page 2

Southeast Asian elders and individuals Date _____

20. YING XIONG

21. MAI YANG

22. Ka Lot

23. XAO HER

24. Mia Koua Lee

25. Choya Pao Xiong

26. Nao Yee Thao

27. _____

28. _____

29. _____

30. _____

31. _____

32. _____

33. _____

34. _____

35. _____

36. _____

37. _____

38. _____

f
J

Proposal to Provide Funds to Southeast Asian Healing Center

Background: On September 28, 2018, Journey Mental Health Center closed the doors to Kajsiab House. Around mid-October 2018, Hmong Institute, a newly formed nonprofit seized control of funding raised and has since, through its CEO Peng Her and his wife Maizong Vue, assumed control of Kajsiab House. Their actions were not in consultation with stakeholders such as the Friends of Kajsiab House, patients, staff or the Hmong and Khmer community and they have refused to work with SEAHC on a common transition plan. In November, Kajsiab House and Cambodian Healing Temple, renamed Southeast Asian Healing Center (SEAHC), and managed by Doua Vang, began the process to form their own nonprofit and establish a new board of directors. SEAHC began to hold programs at a donated space on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 to current. Despite their testimony and asks for support from the County, to date, 40-60 Hmong elders and about 30-40 Khmer elders consistently meet without any funding from the City or County.

Request: Funds go to SEAHC via Fiscal Agent. SEAHC has been around 18 years. They have long time relationships with organizations that are willing to be fiscal agent until SEAHC finalizes their 501c3 application.

Funds should not go to Anesis- they are not culturally specific and do not have a relationship with the elders and the Southeast Asian community. Anesis has no shown experience working with Hmong and Khmer elders. The elders do not trust Anesis and will not utilize their services. Anesis was meant to be temporary help. SEAHC and the elders have determined they want another agency to supervise their clinicians and manage their funds.

	Why Should the Funds Go to Southeast Asian Healing Center?
\$460,000 county funds	The County approved \$502,000, \$42,000 is general purpose revenue and \$460,000 for Medical Assistance Crisis Stabilization Billing (described in Chapter DHS 34, Emergency Mental Health Service Programs). These funds are only billable if the entity has clients who are eligible via medical assistance. SEAHC has consistently been serving 80% of the original Kajsiab House clients and plan to enroll the majority of these clients for crisis stabilization funds. These are funds intended to support clients and prevent psychiatric hospitalization.
Clients trust SEAHC	Clients have been with SEAHC for 18 years. Strong relationships and consistency is important for culturally-specific healing.
Cultural Competency	All SEAHC staff, including drivers and support staff, are Southeast Asian staff except for Dr. Roger Garms (psychologists) and Ann Garms (licensed counselor).
Fiscal Agent Support	SEAHC is working with ADE Supports, Inc. to employ two prior Kajsiab House staff to provide services for Clients. ADE is managed by Dr. Valerie Henderson, licensed psychologist with 15 years experience. She has six years experience subcontracting with local Southeast Asian organizations to provide culturally specific services.
Community Support	SEAHC has worked with the President of Hmong Association of Wisconsin, Cambodian Temple, UW Madison students, doctors and clinicians and other community organizations to ensure support.
Established Services and Activities	Elders meet for group gatherings at a donated space at 1810 South Park Street. They meet Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9-1 p.m. and at the Cambodian Temple Mondays and Wednesdays. Staff provide case management as needed on other days. SEAHC is also enrolling clients in the Community Comprehensive Services program. This will help generate revenue for SEAHC and support clients. To date, three SEAHC clients have been enrolled in CCS, 15 referred for intake and are the waiting lists. The goal is to enroll at least 80-100 clients into CCS by December 2019.