

From: [Julie Bennett](#)
To: justinmarkofski@yahoo.com; [Bruer, Tim](#); [Monya Choudhury](#); [Cnare, Lauren](#); liz.winter.dannenbaum@gmail.com; daocallaghan@michaelbest.com; [Phair, Matthew](#); whitesel29@gmail.com; vanpelt@uwalumni.com; [ALL ALDERS](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Cdbg](#)
Subject: CDBG meeting January 14, 2013
Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 4:17:54 PM
Attachments: [cdbg letter signed by LD.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Soglin, Madison Common Council, and CDBG Committee,
Please review the attached letter with regard to the CDBG meeting that was held on Thursday, January 14, 2013. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County has asked that this letter be added to the meeting record for that meeting.

Thank you,
Julie

Julie Bennett
Center Director
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County
608-259-1606 Ext. 204





Care Net
Pregnancy Center
of Dane County

January 22, 2013

RE: CDBG Committee Meeting January 17, 2013 funding for Section 42 Affordable Housing

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County submitted a proposal for CDBG funding. That proposal was discussed at the CDBG Committee meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013. While Care Net hoped that the proposal would be debated on its merits, the decision to deny funding was clearly based on ideology that was irrelevant to the issue at hand, i.e. affordable workforce housing.

Ideology became the context for discussion because an *ex officio* member of the committee, Alder Lisa Subeck, made unfounded allegations with regard to the practices of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County. Because we were not given the opportunity, and in fact, were **expressly denied** the opportunity to respond to the accusations, we ask that this response be put into the meeting record for January 17, 2013.

- Alder Subeck repeatedly claimed that pregnancy resource centers use false information and deceptive tactics to mislead and manipulate women. She inferred that because she believes unnamed pregnancy resource centers may have not followed best practices, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County should be tarred with the same brush.
- Our response:
 - Regarding allegations of providing false information, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County provides accurate and up-to-date medical information to those clients who request it. All medical information used in the clinic has been reviewed and approved by our local Medical Director, Dr. Michael Wilson. In addition, all medical practices are reviewed by our local Quality Improvement team of licensed medical professionals. Ms. Subeck was invited by Nurse Manager, Tanis Jean-Louis, R.N., to visit Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County to see first-hand the information we share with clients and the research behind the information. Ms. Jean-Louis properly stated that such a discussion of medical materials was outside the scope of a discussion of affordable housing, and her invitation is a courtesy to inform Ms. Subeck of local practices.
 - Regarding allegations of deceptive tactics:
 - On every pregnancy-related page of our local website, www.carenetdane.org, we state clearly, in bold letters, that Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County does not perform or refer for abortion services.

- Each page includes a link to our Commitment of Care and Competence, national standards which govern the practices in our medical clinic.
- The client intake form, on which the client consents to treatment, says in capital letters and bold typeface above the client signature line, **“THIS CENTER DOES NOT PERFORM ABORTIONS OR REFER FOR ABORTION.”**
- Every potential client who calls Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County with an inquiry about abortion services is told we do not perform or refer for such services.
- Regarding allegations of giving false information about abortion risks, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County uses “Information about Fetal Development, Birth and Abortion”, the booklet published by Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 253.10 (3), to inform women about abortion procedures and risks. This booklet is required by the state of Wisconsin for a woman to provide informed consent for an abortion procedure. In training, all staff and volunteers who meet with clients are trained to adhere to these principles:
 - We do not make statements or use materials that contain inflammatory statements about abortion and abortion procedures
 - We do not make statements or use materials that contain unreliable or exaggerated claims about abortion risks
 - We do not use information that describes abortion procedures that are not performed in the state of Wisconsin
 - We do not make statements or use materials that may mislead a client because they contain vague references to abortion risks
 - We do not show pictures or videos to emotionally vulnerable women that contain gruesome pictures of mutilated aborted fetuses
 - We only provide information about abortion to women who provide verbal consent to receiving it in addition to their written consent for treatment
- Regarding allegations of manipulating women, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County asks each client to complete an anonymous exit survey following the appointment. Review of the 2012 surveys shows the following data:
 - 100% of our clients completing exit surveys, including those who made an abortion decision, said they would recommend Care Net to a friend.
 - 97% of our clients rated Care Net’s services as a 4 or 5 on every category on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being excellent.
 - 90% of our clients rated everything about Care Net as excellent.
 - Fewer than 1% of our clients rated Care Net below average on any category.

These data clearly show that our clients do not feel as though they have been manipulated.

- Clients return to Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County for a variety of reasons, including:

- Parenting and childbirth education and access to material resources
- A new pregnancy
- Free testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections for women and cervical cancer screening
- Emotional support following an abortion decision anywhere from a few weeks to several years after an abortion procedure
- Housing support

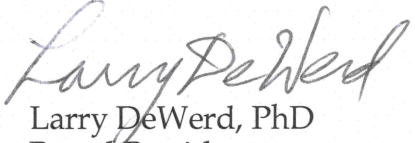
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County believes that Ms. Subeck, as Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin, had a very different agenda than discussing affordable workforce housing at the CDBG meeting on January 17, 2013. She used vague references to unidentified pregnancy resource centers to discredit the work and the name of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County. Ms. Subeck offered no evidence that Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County has participated in any of the activities she decried. She provided no testimony of any client of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County who was dissatisfied with the services they received. She provided no documentation of any client complaint registered about Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County. To our knowledge, in the 28 years of our existence, no such complaint has ever been registered. She merely tossed ugly accusations at the wall and looked to see what would stick. (WSJ quote)

Ms. Subeck also presented outdated material to the committee, claiming she found that information on "your website." The material she presented is not available on the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County website. The "Before You Decide" brochure she referenced is outdated by at least two generations. The local brochure was outdated by at least one generation. It was difficult to discern as those materials were not shared with Care Net representatives.

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County hopes that the Community Development Block Grant committee will evaluate its practices with regard to decision-making about funding individual projects. Committee members were reminded repeatedly during the meeting by city staff that both the discussion about the proposal before them and their decision with regard to the proposal was required to be on the merits of the proposal itself. City staff advised the committee that the city's own legal counsel instructed the committee that neither the faith nor the ideology of the applicant could be appropriately or legally considered in their decision. Further, one member of the CDBG committee stated that every criteria of the RFP had been met or exceeded by Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County and that the committee had no grounds on which to deny funding. Nonetheless, member after member of the committee stated that they could not support this proposal because they do not like the work of pregnancy resource centers in general, clearly denying funds based on ideological reasons. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County is appalled that the committee would so callously disregard its own obligations under the law.

We respectfully request that this document be placed into the meeting record for January 17, 2013 and that the City of Madison re-evaluate its decision-making process for CDBG funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry DeWerd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Larry DeWerd, PhD
Board President
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County