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DATE 13 June 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator,
 Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Commissioner,
 Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **DAY PROGRAM - FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee and Council approve the allocations of \$95,000 to the Day Program and delegate Social Services staff to allocate the funds to the Day Program Centres.

PURPOSE

This report is in response to the motion approved by the Regional Council on December 22, 2000 to increase the 2000 Day Program budget by 11% as recommended by Social Services and should there be savings from caseload reductions, Social Services' staff to bring a report to Community Services Committee regarding an additional 9% increase.

BACKGROUND

On December 22, 1999, Council approved **“That should the caseload reductions during the year 2000 be greater than pictured in the budget, a report be brought to Community Services Committee regarding a 20% increase for Day Programs (rather than the 11% recommended)”**. This represents an additional \$95,000 increase over the 2000 Day Program budget bringing the total amount of the funding envelop to \$1,147,131.

DISCUSSION

Day Programs are drop-in service centres that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable men, women, and children of our community. They provide a supportive environment that facilitates people's growth and ability to function to the best of their capability in the community. People on social assistance, those who are economically and socially disadvantaged, people with psychological difficulties, post psychiatric problems, those who are isolated, lonely, poor and homeless drop in to the program to find comfort and support. The accepting atmosphere provides company for the lonely and services for those who need support to facilitate their integration into more stable living arrangements, relationships and employment.

Day Program Centres have received minimal increases over the past five years with \$50,000 (5.5%) increase to the total funding envelope in 1999. This additional funding was allocated equitably between four of the Day Program Centres whose funding allocations were below their minimum recommended according to the existing funding criteria. This increase allowed Centre 507 to obtain its minimum recommended funding. The remaining three Centres needed more funding in order to obtain their minimum recommended amount.

For the 2000 budget the Day Program funding was increased by 11% to ensure that all the Day Program Centres obtain their minimum recommended funding and to address the challenges to deal with increased demand and emerging needs for services.

However, the Day Program envelope requires an additional 9%, approximately \$95,000, to meet program costs related to the coordination of the meal program at The Well and to address increased budget requests as a result of demand for more services. The cost for a meal coordinator for The Well is currently covered through funds allocated for frontline staff. This reduces the direct service that can be provided to the people who visit the centre and also increases the risks to the safety and security of visitors, volunteers and staff as there are not enough staff on the floor. This additional funding will also help to address increased budget requests from the other Day Program Centres.

Social Services will allocate the funds according to the existing funding criteria to ensure equitable allocation is maintained.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There was no public consultation for this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The \$95,000 will be available from savings from the year 2000 caseload reductions.

CONCLUSION

The Day Programs are an essential part of the matrix of services for the homeless and for the marginalized poor. Social Services recognizes the challenges the Day Program Centres face to deal with the changing and increasing needs of the vulnerable members of our community. The Day Program Centres have managed these challenges in creative ways within the limited resources available. The \$95,000 will contribute to help the Day Program Centres to maintain quality services.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart*