



Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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CONSENT CALENDAR
June 11, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Ben Bartlett & Cheryl Davila
Subject: Budget Referral: Funding for Berkeley Drop-In Center

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$190,015 annually to the FY 2020 - FY 2021 Budget process to support the Berkeley Drop-In Center, a program of the Alameda County Network of Mental Health Clients.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$190,015.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley is allocating funding for community agencies for a two-year funding cycle. The \$190,015 budget referral represents annual funding for the Berkeley Drop-In Center for the following sub-programs: Alcohol and Other Drug reduction/prevention (\$22,199); Homeless Drop-In Services (\$73,515); Supportive Housing/Case Management (\$47,033); and Representative Payee Services (\$47,268).

The Berkeley Drop-In Center (BDIC) is a multi-purpose South Berkeley peer to peer community center run by and for past and present mental health clients and persons undergoing varying ranges of emotional distress. The BDIC runs several programs to create a safe place for people to meet and socialize, as well as participate in peer to peer activities and support groups. In 2017, of clients that voluntarily chose to sign in the front desk, the BDIC had 12,377 annual contracts.

The BDIC has the following basic service, that without the proposed budget referral will be cut or reduced: Daytime drop-in service (mailboxes for people suffering housing insecurity); Housing advocacy and case management; payee services; arts and crafts; alcohol and other drug counseling; mail services; and women's and men's groups; volunteer/job training. The BDIC was selected as the recipient of the 2019 City of Berkeley Mental Health's Achievement Award.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The BDIC is the only Drop-In Center in South Berkeley and has served the Berkeley no-income and very low-income mental health / homeless community for 30 years. Many of the staff identify as individuals with lived experience meaning they have experience living with mental health challenges, they have been homeless, and/or they understand the journey of sobriety. The BDIC is GRASSROOTS.

It is important to look at what has happened with past allocations and contracts.

- Historical inequities in contract deliverables. The contracts in the past have never truly covered the expense of the services the agency provides.
- No Cost of Living increases to contracts places the agency out of compliance with Living wage / Minimum wage requirements
- South Berkeley serves primarily African American mentally distressed men and women who have been displaced by the decade-long gentrification.
- Vital services such as housing services and payee representation are key components to combat the potential risk of homelessness and breaks in mental health services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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