

4078 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

groups in the community such as Health and Welfare and the AFL-CIO. Thus, it can be seen that the municipal government has direct and strong representation on the Board.

Resident Advisory Council

The Council in the Center area is composed of twelve resident women who were elected by the other residents of the area. They function in coordination with the Center Director to propose programs to the Board and to approve and direct the programs at the Center. A number of the women on the Council also have become active in other anti-poverty and community groups as a result of their activities on the Council and the encouragement of the Center Director. Council members are also active in publicizing the Center among other residents of the community.

4. Center Operation

The Center Staff consists of a Director, a young man recently returned from service in the Peace Corps, who has about three and one-half years of college; a Neighborhood Worker, a young Negro man with some college experience; and the secretary, a recent high school graduate. The three staff members seem to work well with each other and have earned the respect of the community.

Working in close association with the Center Staff are members of the Advisory Council. The Center Director has devoted a great deal of time to the Council members—advising them and helping them to develop programs and the capacity for leadership in the community.

The Director and Worker spend a majority of their time with individual problems, acquainting people with CAA projects and referring residents to other social agencies when appropriate. The Worker spends most of his time out in the neighborhood talking with residents about their needs, trying to locate those who can use the assistance of the Center, and developing community interest in solving the problems of the area.

Directors for the various service centers in the city were selected by the CAA Board. Notices are posted by CAA regarding the opening of other positions in the Centers and respondents to the notices are referred to the Center Director for his approval. Thus, formal hiring is shared by the CAA and the Center Director. No training program for employees exists at this time.

5. Control of the Center

When one considers actual control of policy it is evident that policies of the Center and Council are directly subject to the decision of the CAA Board and CAA Director. The Council of the Center seems to be given maximum opportunity by the Center Director to formulate policy but these opportunities are limited by the control imposed by the CAA Board. The relationship between the Center Director and Advisory Council appears to be excellent, given the limitations imposed from above. However, there are indications that the tight control by the CAA over the programs is acting to frustrate these persons who are closer to the Center and the poor. They are beginning to feel that getting one of their programs approved is almost an impossibility.

6. Budget

The total CAA budget for the calendar year of 1966 is approximately \$840,000. The Center budget for this period is approximately \$15,000 of which over 90 percent is for salaries. Projecting for the three operational Centers (exact figures were not obtained), the proportion of the CAA budget devoted to neighborhood centers is only about five percent of the total. Specific programs such as NYC are funded separately from the Center budget.

7. Center Programs

The Center has been most effective in its referral service program and by offering individual services. These services were developed partly through the suggestion and initiative of the CAA and partly as a result of requests by the residents.

It does not seem that the CAA has made the primary functions and goals of the Center clear to its personnel. It is the thinking of the Center staff that the Center was not only to be used as a service referral agency but to provide the impetus for community organization, greater participation, and policy formulation on the part of the poor. Actual practice of the CAA seems to negate this as the CAA has not approved a single program initiated by the Center. Specifically, the Council has proposed a detailed plan for the establishment of a community