From: Shaw, Barbara
To: Irving, Toni
Subject: FW: Governor"s Neighborhood Recovery Initiative
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:44:44 PM

FYI. I just We do have on file a letter from the GADC/Aurora Cruz (Lead Agency) outlining their process and explaining that Project City was not accepted because their scores were low. You have that letter in your packet from the other day. I'll fill you in more when we talk.

From: Shaw, Barbara
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:37 AM
To: 'Gregory Gaither'
Subject: RE: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative

Mr. Gaither: Thank you for your email. In response, I would like to point out the following:

1) In our phone conversation I could not tell you who the Lead Agency was because it had not yet been finalized. A few of the Lead Agency selections took a little longer than others. We did rely on the local community by asking local elected officials to help identify Lead Agencies to submit an application.
2) The Lead Agencies had the responsibility of convening an Advisory Committee and, given the tight time frame, many of the nominated Lead Agencies started identifying their Advisory Committee members before their Lead Agency status was completely finalized.
3) We relied on the Lead Agency in each community, with input from their Advisory Committee, to make decisions on provider partners based on the quality of the applications they received and the criteria for each component. If you disagree with GAGDC's decision, I encourage you to communicate directly with them and request the reason for their decision.

Again, I encourage you to contact the Lead Agency and request information about why your application was not accepted.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shaw

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From: Gregory Gaither [mailto[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 8:11 PM
To: Shaw, Barbara
Subject: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative

Mrs. Shaw:

I attempted reaching you via your office telephone and left messages several weeks ago regarding denial of our organization's juvenile reentry proposal by Lead Agency - Auburn Gresham CDC.

We have several concerns/criticisms over the process in which community partners were selected by this Lead Agency.

First, this Leaf Agency organization was among the last selected by your office. As a matter of fact, in discussions with you (via cell phone) during your flight layover to D.C. you indicated there had been no selection of a Lead Agency for the Greater Grand-Crossing Community. About one week later we learned of Auburn Gresham's CDC selection as Lead Agency. As you and your staff will recall we questioned the selection of this organization because it is located in Auburn Gresham and not Greater Grand Crossing. More importantly, this selection flies in the face of community self-determination which as we understood was to be a core consideration of the Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative.

Second, we realize this isn't a perfect world so we were willing to work with the selection of this lead agency. However, upon contacting Auburn Gresham CDC to request participation on the advisory board we were told that membership had already been established and no additional members were needed.
We again questioned how advisory board members could have been already selected given the very short window of time leading up to Auburn Gresham's selection as Lead Agency.

Third, although we submitted our application for consideration as a juvenile reentry community partner provider it was clear by now that the entire selection process appeared tainted. This was of course confirmed when we received notice that our proposal was denied.

Fourth, when I attended initial IVPA - Governor's Neighborhood Recovery meetings with faith-based leaders at State of Illinois-Thompson Center there were many concerns voiced over selection of Lead Agency organizations and fairness in their selection of community partner providers. Almost all participants in this meeting felt selection of providers by Lead Agencies should be based upon skills/abilities to deliver services. Additionally, questions arose regarding the role of IVPA in monitoring and overseeing execution of fairness/equity in the selection process.

Finally, It doesn't appear that happened in this particular instance. Our organization has an exemplary record of delivering juvenile justice services for more than twenty years. We have roots in the target community including a long history of work with youth in Greater Grand Crossing.

If necessary, we are prepared to advocate at the highest levels of state government over the obvious disregard for community self-determination, as well as, our record of delivering high quality juvenile justice services. .

Gregg Gaither, M.S.W., M.Ed.