



WESTMINSTER

Staff Report

TO: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

DATE: April 29, 2015

SUBJECT: Revised - Study Session Agenda for May 4, 2015

PREPARED BY: Don Tripp, City Manager

Please Note: Study Sessions and Post City Council meetings are open to the public, and individuals are welcome to attend and observe. However, these meetings are not intended to be interactive with the audience, as this time is set aside for City Council to receive information, make inquiries, and provide Staff with policy direction.

Looking ahead to next Monday night's Study Session, the following schedule has been prepared:

A light dinner will be served in the Council Family Room 6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Report from Mayor (5 minutes)
2. Reports from City Councillors (10 minutes)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Update from CML – Sam Mamet – *Verbal*
2. Area Agency on Aging and Boomer Bond Presentation from DRCOG – Brad Calvert and Jayla Sanchez-Warren – *Verbal*
3. Ralston House Presentation – Don Moseley – *Verbal*

6:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Discuss strategy and progress on negotiations related to economic development matters for the Westminster Urban Center Redevelopment, disclosure of which would seriously jeopardize the City's ability to secure the development; discuss strategy and progress on the possible sale, acquisition, trade or exchange of property rights, including future leases; and provide instruction to the City's negotiators on the same as authorized by WMC Sections 1-11-3(C)(2), (4), and (7) as well as Colorado Revised Statutes, Sections 24-6-402 (4)(a) and 24-6-402(4)(e) - *Verbal*

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

None at this time.

Additional items may come up between now and Monday night. City Council will be apprised of any changes to the Study Session meeting schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald M. Tripp
City Manager

NOTE: Persons needing an accommodation must notify the City Manager's Office no later than noon the Thursday prior to the scheduled Study Session to allow adequate time to make arrangements. You can call [303-658-2161](tel:303-658-2161) /TTY 711 or State Relay) or write to mbarajas@cityofwestminster.us to make a reasonable accommodation request.



Staff Report

Information Only Staff Report
May 4, 2015



SUBJECT: Ralston House Presentation by Don Moseley

PREPARED BY: Lee Birk, Police Chief
Ben Goldstein, Senior Management Analyst

Summary Statement

This report is for City Council information only and requires no action by City Council. Ralston House Executive Director, Don Moseley will be providing a general presentation on Ralston House and how they have worked in partnership with the City of Westminster for the past several years. Ralston House provides a friendly and safe place for children and teens who have been sexually abused to tell their stories and begin to heal. Ralston House receives referrals from law enforcement agencies including the City of Westminster, social services and the district attorney's office and works in conjunction with these entities to provide specialized forensic interviews and medical examinations. They help get to the truth when there is suspicion of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual assault on a child, or if the child or teen has witnessed abuse or violence. Ralston House provides an environment that is more conducive to conducting these difficult interviews than a police station. They work to create a place where children and teens feel comfortable telling their stories without being re-traumatized in the process. Services are currently available at three locations for young children and youth, through the age of 18.

Background Information

Ralston House child advocacy center was developed in 1990 to assist in the investigative process of child sexual abuse cases. It was founded by the Arvada Police Department to provide a child-friendly, safe and neutral environment where police detectives, social workers, therapists and medical professionals could talk with children and their families in surroundings that would lessen the anxiety of a child who had been assaulted.

The City of Westminster has provided Ralston House with support via the Human Services Board for the past several years. In 2015, Ralston House requested \$5,000 and was awarded \$4,000. City of Westminster Police Department works closely with Ralston House on investigation of this nature; unfortunately this partnership has been needed over 250 times in the past four years. However, evidence collected by Ralston House increased the odds that a conviction was made. There is no direct charge for these services to the City, as Ralston House is primarily supported by grants and private donation.

Today in the United States one in seven girls and one in twenty-five boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. Ninety percent of these children are abused by either family or someone they know and trust. At Ralston House, children and teens who have been sexually or physically abused can tell their stories, undergo a comprehensive medical exam and receive victim advocacy services in a safe, respectful environment as they begin to heal from the trauma they have experienced - without being re-traumatized in the process. It was the first child advocacy center in Jefferson County and the second in

Colorado. It is currently the only child advocacy center in Jefferson, Gilpin, Adams and Broomfield Counties.

Until 2005, Ralston House contracted with private therapists and another child advocacy center to provide forensic interviews. In 2006, in response to an increased demand for services, an organizational assessment was conducted and the Board developed a new strategic business plan. They hired a full-time Forensic Therapist to conduct interviews and an Executive Director. Services were expanded and the number of children served continued to increase. Ralston House began providing medical exams in November 2007, and is the only non-hospital center in the 1st and 17th Judicial Districts providing pediatric forensic medical exams. Ralston House contracts with Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to provide medical exams. A second facility was opened in 2009 and receives in-kind support from the Cities of Arvada and Lakewood. The Dr. Monica Knuesel Health Clinic opened at the Ralston House Lakewood facility in December 2012.

In May 2014, with support from the City of Northglenn and Northglenn VALE funds, Ralston House opened a facility in Northglenn. The City of Northglenn and Ralston House are currently in the process of evaluating funding options for a new facility in Northglenn. Staff has attended a couple of meetings where these facility plans have been discussed. It is anticipated that Ralston House will be approaching the City with a significant funding request to allow this facility expansion to move forward in 2016.

Ralston House received national accreditation status from the National Children's Alliance in 2009, ensuring that Ralston House operates using best practices and also will provide additional funding opportunities.

The City's support for Ralston House is in line with City Council's Strategic Plan goal of Proactive Regional Collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald M. Tripp
City Manager