

NEW REALITIES: THE CRITICAL ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS 2010

Critical Issues:

LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

There is a lack of resources available for staff training, retention efforts, compensation, and up-to-date technology. There is also an increase in unsafe work environments in the non profit sector. While there are many contributing factors, three primary factors emerge – reduction of funding, unfunded contract mandates, and underdeveloped, shifting City strategies.

COMPETING LONG-TERM PLANS

There is a lack of coordination between the City’s two-year budgeting process and the various long-term service plans that have been developed over the years. Social service position papers have been developed, but are rarely seriously considered during the budget process. Due to the unending budget discussions, there is seldom an opportunity to discuss how future budget decisions will either benefit or negatively impact services, which invariably end up dominating and driving discussions.

There is increasing concern that the Mayor’s Non Profit Taskforce recommendations (i.e. MSO) do not fully consider the current model of social services, and that implementing these recommendations may cause more harm than good.

The non profit community may need to be legislated (City Charter Amendment) into City budget discussions. (Fire, Police, MUNI)

UNDERSTANDING THE FULL ROLE OF NON PROFITS

Non profits are not just altruistic, formed entities that provide services to the community. Non profits represent a workforce sector that contributes not only to the public health of San Francisco by providing client services, but also to the economic health and tax base of the City through its employees. As a sector, non profits need to play a more active role in the political system. We should be invited to policy and budget discussions, and our recommendations, concerns, issues, and most importantly our community outcomes should be taken into serious consideration as we plan for the future. Activism and advocacy are the essential elements that are needed, but we need to address issues of education, apathy, fear, etc. to deliver consistent and effective outcomes. Could the non profit sector coalesce around public policy issues (quasi-union style) to effect change?

LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The non profit community may have to take the lead in creating a coordinating body that organizes the non profit community, the City, and the foundation world to help design

Public/Private partnerships, and to help develop other innovative fundraising strategies to raise funds for health and human services.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF UNIONS

It is unclear to many in the non profit sector what role unions play in the City's infrastructure. We often only talk about unions within the context of City budgets, give backs, MOUs, etc. The non profit sector needs to understand the full scope and impact of unions, not just fiscally, but also on client services.
