

Questions raised by the ANC Board

1. According to the Needs and Assets assessment of Washington, DC Youth only 25% of the youth under 18 reside in Ward 7. What percentage of those youth are in need assistance for drug and substance abuse?

There is no data that can determine the need for substance abuse in a particular population other than the request for services by its governing body (District of Columbia). Whatever the percentage of need, there is no treatment for substance abuse in Ward 7 at all. Please refer to the Plant The Seed Youth Treatment Services Proposal for data re: Ward 7 demographics and services.

2. You mentioned you look throughout Ward 7 and Astor Place was able to accommodate your program. What other locations (exact address) did you consider?

Several sites were considered to include 2525 32nd St SE (Owner had a section 8 pending lease), 4257 Brooks St Ne. (Not enough Sq. footage to accommodate program); 1st and Wayne St Se DC (Owner has other plans for site). 5212 Astor Pl Site has the space and accommodations to allow clients to feel they are not incarcerated or in an institution. This structure assists in establishing trust and progress toward therapy and change. In addition, the Owner, a Ward 7E06 constituent and longtime resident, has a passion to help the youth as well. He is committed and continues to work toward the implementation of a program of this kind which will serve his community and the city in which he lives.

3. I'm aware of various laws but statistics of how many per ward in DC or from the city that went to Baltimore for treatment can be obtained without releasing names. Can you provide the breakdown per Ward? Also can you find out any additional success stories post treatment?

I can appreciate your commitment to ensure there is quality of care and best practices when vital services such as these are being established in your SMD. It is clear that you are taking every precaution to ensure that Ward 7 doesn't come up short and is not taken advantage of when it comes to these services. We can assure you the Plant The Seed Youth Treatment Services approach is evidence based in that these practices have been researched and found to

be successful. Baltimore is a great city, but offers no resolve for how and why DC is taking the initiative (RFP) to address the needs of its own residents and their families.

4. You mention Ward 7 and 8 has 50% of the youth have you thought about locations in Ward 8? Why or Why not?

Again, several sites were considered including sites in Ward 8. Please see answer #2 above;

Let me say, 5212 Astor PI has been the home of several programs to include "Education Solutions" which dissolved last year. I am sure this program was assessed when determining the amount of programs in the community. We are simply replacing that program and providing a different service that is needed in the community and Ward 7. There are no structural changes being made to the residence or expansion of services. Meaning, the residence that accommodated that program has the space to accommodate Plant the Seed Youth Treatment Services. There will be no increase in community based service programs in 7E06 or 7E05; again, we are replacing a program that dissolved its services in this location.

5. How come your combining Ward 7 and 8 numbers and not the other wards if the whole city face the same issue with youth?

As a constituent in Ward 7 and longtime resident of DC, I have taken a personal interest in ensuring that this Ward has the first opportunity to address health as it relates to substance abuse for our youth. As a Clinician, and also like yourself, I have great concern for the wellbeing of my fellow residents and their children in DC. I believe we share the same sentiments that likely lead to your continued queries re: the plight of Ward 7 and the whole city. It is clear by the numbers that an increase in these services to Ward 7, in particular, will impact the entire city.

6. If the entire city can benefit from this program why is only Ward 7 choose for this location?

In response to this question, please see above.

7. Ward 7 has 25% of the youth and Ward 4 has 20% of the youth under age 18 do you think they have the same pressing need as well?

While I appreciate these additional questions, these points (questions) have no bearing on the glaring issue regarding our youth and substance abuse problem in the District of Columbia. Again, the Department of Behavior Health has already quantified the need for youth treatment services evidenced by the solicitation of request for providers (RFP). This RFP has been issued in the District of Columbia despite the current referrals to these same services in Baltimore MD. Whether the outcomes in Baltimore are successful or unsuccessful, the need for services in the District of Columbia is evident. Notwithstanding, this matter is a **health** issue--and Councilmember Vincent C. Gray, representing Ward 7, is Chairperson of the Committee on Health and has responsibility for the oversight of Health in DC. With that, Ward 7 should, by all means, be the frontrunner on health concerns of this magnitude.

Our proposal quantifies the need for services, evidenced by the data presented throughout. We have even taken the time to inquire and listen to the concerns of your constituents in the SMD (7E06) as evidenced by the more than 200 signatures in support of substance abuse treatment for our Youth RIGHT HERE-RIGHT NOW! (It concerns me, as a resident and part of the constituency of 7E04, that you may be taking a stand against what the people have indicated they support.) Upon your request, Plant The Seed Youth Treatment Services has provided you with a statement of our services for your support, and has also submitted a formal proposal at the request of the ANC Chairperson (who represents 7 E05) giving quantification of the need for services, and our qualifications as Providers. Additionally, we have availed ourselves to answer questions on a personal basis as well as quantifiably to support what has been documented in the proposal.

Ward 7 has implemented no substance abuse treatment programs to address youth substance abuse, even though our Ward has a significant population of youth. Let's be aware that substance abuse among youth is not a **moral** issue that determines good kids from bad ones. This is an issue of **health** that indicates a growing and disturbing illness needing to be addressed by utilizing effective treatment. I submit, that the real question is: Will Ward 7, your leadership and Plant the Seed Youth Treatment Services work together to address this health issue and improve the quality of life in Ward 7 and the District of Columbia as a whole?