



Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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If you've been mistreated
you've got the right to file
a complaint against an
officer. Be sure to get the
officer's name and number or
if you can't get that, be
sure to get his police badge

Remember the date, time
and place it happened and
the names of any witnesses

If you have been mistreated
or arrested, **IMMEDIATELY**
contact your lawyer. If you
don't have a lawyer,
you can call or go to:

THE LEGAL RIGHTS CENTER
808 FRANKLIN AVENUE 871-4886

You can file a complaint at:

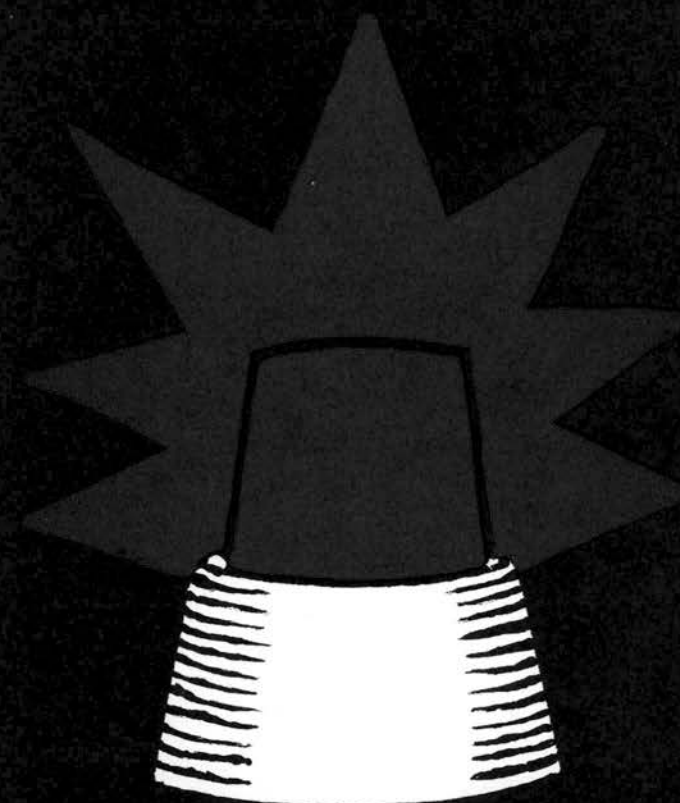
THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
348-2010

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT
348-7815



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FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE AND
THE URBAN COALITION OF MINNEAPOLIS,
WITH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY
THE MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION.

HOLD IT!!



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



Police are suspicious.

They're supposed to be.

If you have to deal with a police officer, you should try to avoid a hassle, remembering that you want to get out of the scene as soon as possible. It is important to cooperate.

Most of the the time that means giving him your I.D. and answering the question about where you are going or what you are doing.

You've got to talk to a cop the right way. Don't do anything that would rile him up. Remember, if you are cool, chances are better that he will be, too.

Protect yourself by cooperating and make sure that the cop who is questioning you believes that you are cooperating. When you are stopped, you might end up getting roughed up or arrested, so be cool.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE THEM ANY INFORMATION.
TELL THEM YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY ANY MORE UNTIL YOU TALK TO A LAWYER.
THEN DON'T. THE LAW GUARANTEES YOU THAT RIGHT.

as foundations, corporations, and governmental units take their cue from the support the Center receives from the Bar.

Further, the Center needs to broaden its financial base so that it can move away from crisis-oriented fund-raising toward long-range financial planning.

Support

The Legal Rights Center, Inc., has been authorized by the judges of Hennepin County to state that 100% of the District and Municipal bench endorses its program.*

"The minority committees see the Legal Rights Center not only as their representative before the courts, but also as the representative of the law and the lawyer. It is only fair that we contribute our dollars to continue that excellent representation not only for the minorities, but for ourselves as well."

Hennepin District Judge, Douglas Amdahl

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| * Hon. H. Peter Albrecht | Hon. Peter Lindberg |
| Hon. Douglas Amdahl | Hon. Paul Lommen |
| Hon. Lindsay Arthur | Hon. Henry McCarr |
| Hon. Donald Barbeau | Hon. Eugene Minenko |
| Hon. Robert Bowen | Hon. Diana Murphy |
| Hon. William Christenson | Hon. Dana Nicholson |
| Hon. Chester Durda | Hon. Harold Odland |
| Hon. Eugene Farrell | Hon. Allen Oleisky |
| Hon. Patrick Fitzgerald | Hon. Delila Pierce |
| Hon. Kenneth Gill | Hon. William Posten |
| Hon. Daniel Hart | Hon. Neil Riley |
| Hon. Irving Iverson | Hon. James Rogers |
| Hon. James Johnston | Hon. Robert Schumacher |
| Hon. Harold Kaline | Hon. Suzanne Sedgwich |
| Hon. Stanley Kane | Hon. Bruce Stone |
| Hon. Richard Kantorowicz | Hon. William Sykora |
| Hon. Jonathon Lebedoff | Hon. Crane Winton |
| Hon. David Leslie | Hon. Herbert Wolner |

**LEGAL
RIGHTS
CENTER
808 east
franklin
871-4886**

Legal Rights Center Inc.

Philosophy

The Legal Rights Center is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1970 providing legal defense and coordinated social services to poor persons charged with crimes in Hennepin County. About 90% of the clients represented by the Center are Black, Indian, or Chicano-Latino.

The Center does not represent persons identified within the community as professional criminals.

Located at Franklin and Chicago Avenues, the Center is readily accessible to its clients.

The Center is Unique

The Center opens approximately 650-700 criminal cases per year. Forty percent of these involve felony charges and the Center attorneys try approximately 20% of the felony jury trials in Hennepin County.

However, providing skilled legal defense is not enough. The Center attempts to identify conditions that led its clients into involvement with the law and to coordinate social services to change those conditions. The Centers' legal staff carries a heavier case load per lawyer than any legal service program.

In order to do this, the Center employs a resource not possessed by any other agency—the Centers' Community Workers.

The Community Workers, two Blacks and two Indians, know the court system and the clients' communities. They can identify problems in

clients' lives that would be undetected by most attorneys. They can introduce the client to social service programs responsive to the needs of minority persons.

The community workers explain the criminal justice process to the clients in ways unavailable to an attorney who does not share their cultural background. Their involvement results in less anger and resentment toward an otherwise alienating process and increases the client's ability to make rational, informed decisions. Through the workers' knowledge of the community, they can obtain and present facts to the courts which are inaccessible to most investigators.

Finances

For 1978, County funding will be \$50,000 and State funding \$55,000. The Center's budget for 1978 is set at \$295,000, of which 90% goes for personnel costs although attorneys salaries are 25% less than those of the Public Defender.

Originally the Center's funding came from a relatively small number of Minneapolis lawyers while the amount of giving from these lawyers has remained constant, support from corporations and foundations has doubled and contract-for-service payments from state and local government has tripled.

Broadening the Center's financial base among attorneys is essential. Increased support from lawyers will promote support in all other sectors,

A. 1 Mission - Overall Agency Goals

The Legal Rights Center was an outgrowth of the urban revolts which exploded throughout the nation during the decade of the 1960's. Concerned leaders of the Black and Indian communities of Minneapolis identified existing criminal defense programs as inadequate and insensitive to the needs of minority people. These community leaders were convinced that conditions mandated the establishing of a new agency. This organization was projected to be community based and sensitive to the cultural values, aspirations and world view of minority people. These qualities would guide and strengthen the needed legal services. The collective community efforts resulted in the establishment of the Legal Rights Center in May, 1970.

The major purpose of the Center is to provide quality criminal defense to the poor and minority communities of Hennepin County. However, an effective criminal defense is not a sufficient response to the lodging of charges against an individual from the aforementioned communities. Consequently, the Center attempts to identify the social conditions (e.g. the lack of employment or chemical abuse) which may have led the individual to the criminal justice system, and then coordinates existing social services to attempt to change those conditions.

The objectives of quality criminal defense and coordinated social services are accomplished by employing lawyers and Community Workers. The legal staff is composed of trained professionals who are also committed to social justice and the concept of community based legal services.

The Community Workers are products of poor and minority backgrounds. They help the Center's clients to identify factors which may have led to involvement with the criminal justice system. Community Workers counsel clients and their families or refer them to social service agencies with special expertise. They are often successful with clients who can not be reached by other agencies because the clients are facing a crisis and are receptive to change. In addition, the Community Workers has gained the trust of the client and also serves as a visible resource in his respective community.

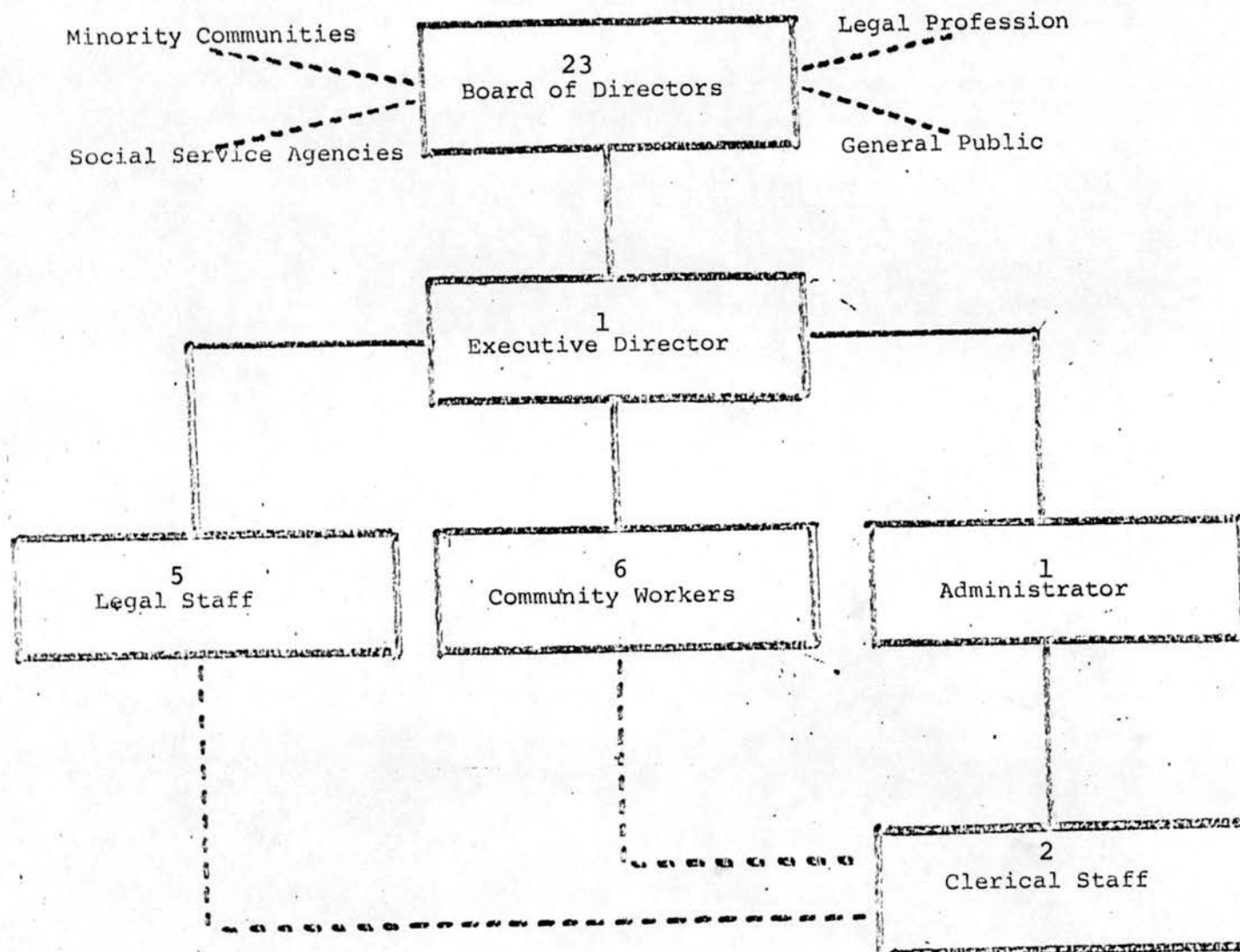
The major goal of the Center is to sensitize social service agencies, the police and courts to attitudes which are perceived by the minority community as instances of institutional racism and to educate the poor and minorities to their legal rights and responsibilities. The social service functions of the Community Workers are also central to the mission of the Center.

A 4. General Description of Clients Served

Ninety percent of all clients served by the Legal Rights Center are from the Black, Indian and Chicano-Latino Communities. They must meet the indigent levels specified by Hennepin County. The client age range includes juveniles, adults and senior citizens. The Center reserves the right to accept or reject all cases and potential clients soliciting legal or social services.

LEGAL RIGHTS CENTER, INC.

ORGANIZATION



B.1 Program Outline of Agency Services

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Prepared for the United Way 1980 New Programs Monitoring Project

LEGAL RIGHTS "CHICANO-LATINO COMMUNITY WORKERS"
SERVICE CATEGORY: FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Legal Rights Center, Inc. was admitted to the United Way in 1980 and received \$21,000 from the New Programs Committee to expand their Community Worker Program from five full time community workers to six. The additional community worker will extend the services of the agency to the Chicano-Latino community by providing bicultural and bilingual counseling about legal and nonlegal matters. A strength of this program is the rapport that the community worker already has with the Chicano community; therefore, the services of Legal Rights are visible and accessible. A considerable amount of time will be spent in outreach activities, as well as direct casework with Chicano-Latino adults who face criminal charges. Through this program, Legal Rights hopes to accomplish the following:

1. Increase the quality of legal counseling available to the Chicano-Latino community.
2. Increase the amount of educational and preventive information available to Chicano-Latinos.
3. Increase the impact of Chicano-Latino concerns upon the criminal justice system.

The community worker has a strong legal background and is receiving on-the-job training from a senior community worker. The agency has had a ten year history of running this program for the Black and American Indian communities.

There are three primary responsibilities of the community worker:

1. Intake and Counseling About Legal and Nonlegal Matters

The worker explains the operation of the criminal justice system to persons accused of crime and provides assistance through all stages of the system. He identifies social adjustment problems in the individual or family and makes available other social services. He points out

the implications of the client's behavior and helps the client understand the options available to him. The worker is the liaison between the attorney, the client and the support community. At least three quarters of the worker's time will be spent on direct contact with clients and other casework related activities.

2. Outreach

Up to one-quarter of the worker's time will be allotted to community outreach work. He already has strong connections in the community and will be supplementing this by developing printed materials such as cards and posters, pamphlets, and by personal contact with the agencies, individuals, churches and other organizations who frequently come in contact with members of the Chicano-Latino community.

3. Organizational Advocacy

As time is available, the program hopes to gather and disseminate information which will help work towards the improvement of the criminal law enforcement, judicial and corrections systems which impact the Chicano-Latino community.

Legal Rights Center, Inc. services are available to the indigent members of Hennepin County who have been charged with a criminal offense. There does not appear to be reliable information on the number of Chicano-Latinos arrested or prosecuted annually. Some estimates indicate over 11,000 Chicano-Latinos reside in Hennepin County, of whom approximately two-thirds consider Spanish their native language.

1980 Budget Projections

Salaries	\$ 15,500.00
Travel	1,800.00
Fringes	1,650.00
Outreach	2,550.00
	<u>\$ 21,000.00</u>

Functioning Structure of Legal Rights Center

The heart of the Center is the community workers. It is their function to get requests for representation, screen those requests, and refer them to the respective attorneys. Attorneys who get direct requests for representation are to refer them to community workers for screening. There are some gaps in this part of the process but we are trying to close them up.

Community workers investigate the cases, locate and interview witnesses, some times with attorneys, and to keep in touch with the clients and their families, whether the client is in jail or on the street. Community workers assist the client and lawyer throughout the preliminary process, plea negotiations, and trial. As a part of this process, they work with probation and court personnel and prosecutors to take care of problems that develop and to protect the client.

Community workers keep in touch with treatment and community help resources so that disposition of cases can be worked out in the best interests of the client. Contact is also made with inmates and inmate organizations in the state institutions. Community workers assist in fund raising. Close working relationships with the attorneys are essential so that the attorneys get the feel of the community and the clients. Community workers function in community organizations.

The attorneys assume representation of the clients accepted by the community workers. They also assist community organizations on request.

Senior Attorney

* The executive director carries a full case load, participates in fund raising, maintaining contacts with the government and private agencies and with the law firms and bar association. He functions on several boards or commissions dealing with drafting of court rules, and study of various aspects of the criminal justice system.

OFFICE MANAGER

The administrator/fund raiser handles the administration of center business, organizes the work of filling staff vacancies, is in direct charge of fund raising activities, handles relations with United Way.

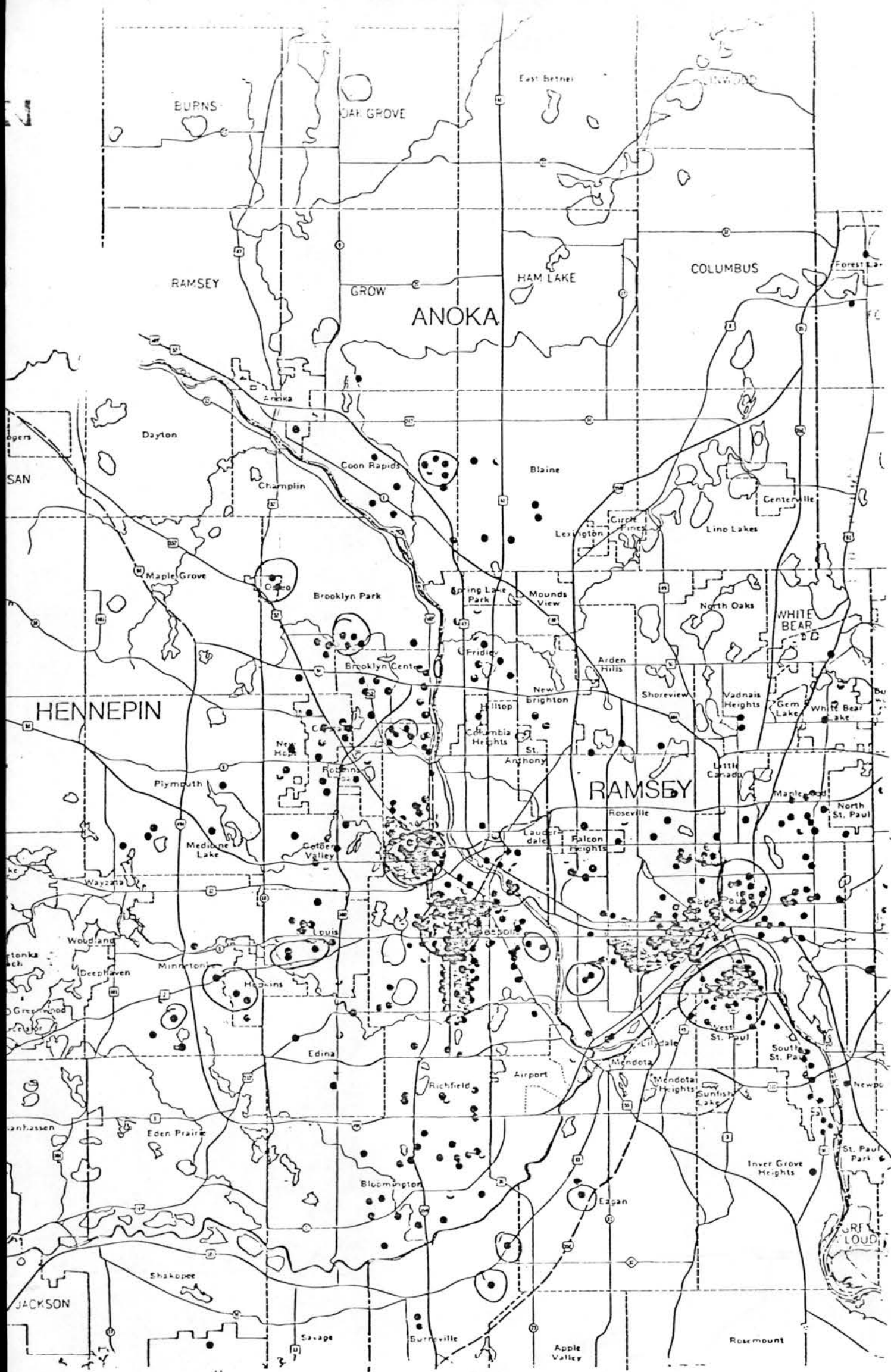
The staff holds regular and special meetings to deal with policy and operating problems, the filling of staff vacancies, and problems in particular cases. Decisions on these questions are made by consensus or majority vote. *No Privacy!*

The office secretary and the receptionist are key employees in that they have much of the client contact, assist the community workers, attorneys, and the administrator, keep the office operations moving. They function as full staff members.

Job descriptions

Indios / Chicanos

~~Marcel~~
me dijo que el no mas tiene 1 voto



Map shows areas of concentration for Chicano/Latino populations in the St. Paul metropolitan area. Information provided by the St. Paul metropolitan planning commission, 1978.