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Milwaukee, Wis. Proposal for Documenting Milwaukee's Lead
Community Project, January 1996.

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MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION

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Hale***F A X T R A N S M I T T A L**

FAX # TO: 212-532-2646

DATE: 01/29/96

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

TO: Gail Dorph

FROM: Ruth Cohen

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 9 (Includes Transmittal)

MESSAGE: FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

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Gerald Stein, President Richard H. Meyer, Executive Vice President

Constituent Agencies of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization • Hillel Academy • Hillel Foundation • Milwaukee Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee • Jewish Family Services • Madison Hillel Foundation • Milwaukee Association for Jewish Education • Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations • Milwaukee Jewish Day School

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This fax consists of 8 pages. For problems with its transmission, please contact Roberta Goodman at 608-231-3534.

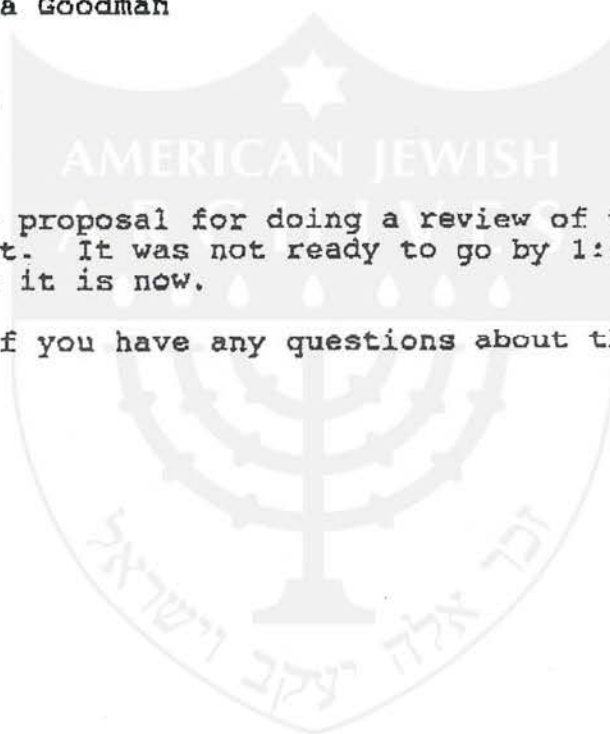
To: Dr. Ruth Cohen

From: Roberta Goodman

January 10, 1996

Ruth, here is my proposal for doing a review of the Lead Community Project. It was not ready to go by 1:00 P.M. yesterday. Here it is now.

Please call me if you have any questions about the proposal. Stay warm!



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Proposal for Documenting Milwaukee's Lead Community Project
submitted by Roberta Goodman
January 1996

Background and Purpose

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation has a long history of efforts supporting Jewish education. Few of these efforts have been documented in a way that can help guide planning and promotion of future Jewish educational endeavors. The records consist of task force reports on the role of Milwaukee's central agency or evaluations of specific programs in the day schools. The Lead Community Project presents itself as an opportunity for the Milwaukee Jewish Federation to document a major effort to enhance Jewish education on a communal level. This record could help guide future planning efforts and raise support for future Jewish educational efforts.

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation is entering its fourth year of sponsoring the Lead Community Project, an effort to improve Jewish education on a community-wide basis. The Federation initiated the Lead Community Project in partnership with the Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE). The Lead Community Project has focused attention on Jewish education, initiated planning on the communal and institutional levels, and launched a variety of educational programs.

The Lead Community Project has been and continues to be a major undertaking for the Milwaukee Jewish Federation in its on-going efforts to support Jewish education. The Federation as well as numerous other Jewish educational institutions have

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committed significant human and financial resources to this Project. While hundreds of people have been involved in the Project, the number of people who stand to benefit from it can be counted in the thousands. Unfortunately, only a few people are familiar enough with the Project to grasp the entirety of its contribution to Jewish education in Milwaukee.

Because no written document of this significant Project exists, the Milwaukee Lead Community Project leaders want to record how this Project was implemented. They want to be able to reflect on its process and outcomes in order to guide future communal efforts on behalf of Jewish education. In addition, they want to be able to widely disseminate to community members the way Jewish education on a communal level looks today after three years of the Lead Community Project. By creating a portrait of Jewish education on a community level today, the community members will have documentation that can serve as a reference point for future comparisons.

Method

I propose to use several strategies for data collection to gain a rich and full understanding of Milwaukee's Lead Community Project. In this section, I will identify the different strategies and sources for collecting the data and briefly discuss data analysis.

Strategies. The data collection strategies will include: reviewing documents from Milwaukee and the CIJE regarding the

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Lead Community Project, reviewing transcripts of interviews previously conducted by the CIJE, and interviewing key people who participated in the Project's implementation.

I will interview both individuals and groups. For the individual interviews, I need a sample of eight to ten people who had some involvement with the Project as well as who are stakeholders in different institutions affected by the Project. Several criteria will be employed in selecting these people. I will select people who were involved in the Project in different ways, such as chairing a committee or action team, participating in a retreat or seminar participant, sitting on a committee or action team, advocating for the program, or participating in decisions. I want people with different levels of involvement, from highly involved to moderately involved. I will choose people who represent the different institutions invested in the Project and who have different roles within these institutions.

Individual interviews are time intensive. The sample of eight or ten individuals limits whose voices can be heard, thereby leaving out some people key to the Project. I propose interviewing one or two groups who shared a Lead Community Project experience such as members of an action team or the Steering Committee in order to obtain their insights into the Lead Community Project.

I will devise guidelines for these interviews. These guidelines will focus on the participants' perceptions of:

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1. how the Lead Community Project operated, such as its purpose, structure, operational style, participation levels, communication;
2. the ways in which the Lead Community Project contributed to Milwaukee's Jewish educational system in terms of advocacy, funding, programming, structure; and
3. the ways in which the Lead Community Project affected the institutions they represent.

All interviews will be tape recorded and transcribed.

Sources. Data sources are those people and settings from which information is collected. The people who will serve as data sources include: the Project Co-Chairpeople, the Project Director, Project chairpeople and participants, Federation professional and lay leaders, Jewish educational institutional professional and lay leaders, teachers, and funders. The settings in which data will be collected include: individual interviews; group interviews of action teams, Steering Committee, or seminar participants; and the files found in the offices of the Project Director and the Milwaukee Field Researcher.

Data Analysis. I will use standard methods of qualitative data analysis for a case study. The analysis will produce conceptual categories for organizing the report. Within those categories, I will look for recurring themes as well as the range of perceptions presented.

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Product

Two different products are needed to fulfill the two goals of: 1) documenting for communal leaders how this Project was implemented in order to guide future communal efforts on behalf of Jewish education and 2) documenting for community members the way Jewish education on a communal level looks today after three years of the Lead Community Project.

The document for communal leaders will depict how the Lead Community Project was implemented. It will be written using a narrative style focusing on the key issues and components of the Lead Community Project. It will be geared toward looking at what worked or did not work as well as the contribution of the Lead Community Project to Jewish Education in Milwaukee. It will include recommendations that could assist planning for future communal efforts. The document will have both a long form, twenty-five to fifty page narrative, and a short form, an executive summary of the highlights.

The second document will be a brief report that can be widely disseminated. This document will provide a concise review of the Lead Community Project and its contribution to Jewish education in Milwaukee.

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Time Framework

The time framework is subject to the approval date of this proposal. Assuming that the proposal is approved by mid-February, the work can be done as follows:

- 1) obtain records from the Project Director and CIJE as needed (February)
- 2) meet with Lead Community Project Co-Chairpeople and Director to discuss the areas focused on in the study (late February)
- 3) do group and individual interviews (March)
- 4) transcribe interviews (April)
- 5) draft reports (May)
- 6) submit first draft (June 15)
- 7) receive feedback (June 30)
- 8) submit final draft (July 15)
- 9) make presentation (if desired -- to be scheduled)

Resources Needed

I will need someone to set up the group and individual interviews.