

BLAKEY, JOSEPH

8/7/74 Post

BLAKEY, JOSEPH

## Info Center Director Urges Residents To Maximize Use of the Referral Center

By Sandra Taylor

Taking a look around East Palo Alto a person might be in doubt as to where or what sources to seek help when trying to locate a job, social or legal assistance.

The Community Information Referral and Service Center, at 1671 Bay Road in the Nairobi Shopping Center is where EPA residents can find a variety of helpful information in one building.

After several months of service to the EPA community, Joseph Blakey, project director of the Community Information Referral and Service Center, recognizes the need for more effective and consistent programs directed at EPA residents.

"My staff and I have sent out nearly 65 letters for community response to the types of community programs and activities which in fact are designed primarily by our community," stated Blakey.

Blakey, took over the eight year program in October of last year.

"My goal as community worker in the capacity of director of the Information Center is to make the center a reliable resource for our community use," he stressed.

Some of the particular services the community Information Referral Service

Center houses are:

Food Stamp Center; Employment Development



JOSEPH BLAKEY

Department (E.D.D.); Legal Aid Services (legal counseling, and legal action taken in Civil cases); Catholic Social Services; Salvation Army; Family Counseling Services; Jobs for Retirement; and the Nutrition Program.

All of the programs and agencies located in the Information Center have specific days and hours that these services are available, and should be verified by contacting Pearlle Young, staff assistant, at 322-1817 for scheduling.

The center is one of the numerous programs in the Bay Area for residents needing the services offered through the funding of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

"In an effort to assess the direction for which our community wants and needs the center to go, I am initiating a way to get community input through correspondence, emphasized Blakey.

In referring to community input the new director hopes to get full response from community residents who were contacted by mail, in a survey which will enable him and his staff in implementing new services and referrals.

The desires of community organizations, and the agencies in EPA who receive referrals, are also requested to contact the info Center for Community input.

Blakey has appealed to community groups and organizations to make appointments to talk briefly to him about their goals and objectives to maximize the use of the Center.

RAV. POST  
8/7/74