



Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
1300 NW Wall St., Suite 200, Bend, OR 97701-1960
(541) 388-6570 - Fax (541) 385-3202 - www.deschutes.org

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

For Board Business Meeting of December 21, 2015

DATE: December 15, 2015

FROM: Sarah Peterson Health Services Early Learning Division 322-7461

TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM:

Consideration of Board signature of Document No. 2015-759, Approving the Health Services Early Learning Division to apply for a competitive grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Justice for Families Program.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS DATE? No

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Since September 2003, the County has applied for and received the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program Grant. The Safe Havens Grant program ended in 2013. Multiple Office on Violence Against Women funding streams were consolidated into the Justice for Families Program Grant.

The grant supports Mary's Place, a supervised visitation and safe exchange program in the Mike Maier County Services Building. Mary's Place provides a safe, secure site for visitation and exchanges of children between custodial and non-custodial parents with a history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or stalking. Planning for Mary's Place began in 2003 and Mary's Place opened its doors in January 2006. The primary goal of this program is to keep victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and their children safe and to hold batterers accountable. In addition, the grant will fund a bi-lingual (Spanish) legal advocate stationed at the Court House. The primary goal of the legal advocate is to improve Latino(a) access to justice including restraining/stalking orders.

Health Services will provide fiscal and program oversight and will subcontract with Saving Grace to provide services. The grant funding will: 1) support the operation of Mary's Place; 2) provide a part-time, bi-lingual (Spanish) facilitator; 3) provide a part-time in-house advocate; 4) provide a full-time bi-lingual legal advocate out-stationed at the court house; 5) provide outreach to rural families, minorities and teen parents to increase accessibility to supervised visitation and safe exchange; 6) provide community (including judicial) training. Mary's Place will provide services to around 42 families a month.

The grant requires a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as they navigate the justice system. Therefore, the County must have formal partnerships, delineated in a MOU with the Court, Saving Grace, Sheriff's Office, Bend and Redmond Police Department, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the District Attorney, Community Justice, Latino Community Association and KIDS Center.

The County will: 1) provide fiscal and programmatic oversight; 2) continue to allocate a portion of Court mediation/conciliation fees to support program operations; 3) provide in-kind administration/office and visitation/exchange space in the Mike Maier building; 4) provide in-kind administration/office space in the Court House for the legal advocate.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None. The estimated grant funding is \$700,000. The grant period is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION & ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize Jane Smilie to serve as the authorizing official and sign application documents for the Justice for Families Program Grant. Authorize the Board Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding when it is complete and approved by County Counsel.

ATTENDANCE: Sarah Peterson

DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS:

N/A