

W. H. A.

Memorandum Date: August 18, 2004
Order Date: September 1, 2004

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TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: District Attorney

PRESENTED BY: Alex Gardner

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/In the matter of increasing revenues and expenditures in Fund 124 and creating a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate position and a 1.0 FTE Office Assistant 1 position.

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I. PROPOSED MOTION

Move approval of the Order in the matter of increasing revenues and expenditures in Fund 124 and creating a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate position and a 1.0 FTE Office Assistant 1 position.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

In order to help implement a grant received by the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, the Board of Commissioners needs to approve an increase in county revenue for staff positions at the Center and create the positions.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

Friends of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) has been awarded a \$500,000 Rural Domestic Violence Child Victimization grant by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Office on Violence Against Women for the CAC Domestic Violence Child Witness Program. The non-profit will receive the grant but the County employs CAC staff. To implement the grant, the CAC County budget must be increased by \$69,068 revenue and two positions need to be created: a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate to start October 1, 2004 and a 1.0 Office Assistant 1 to start November 1, 2004. The grant award is for July 1, 2004-June 30, 2006 (even though the grant wasn't awarded until August 2). Current funding for temporary positions staffing the DV Witness Program expires September 30, 2004.

B. Analysis

The Child Advocacy Center Child Victimization and Witness to DV Project will continue and expand the Child Advocacy Center of Lane County, including its Child Witness to DV Project, DV Investigator, Child Welfare Forensic Interviewer, and Latina DV Advocate. Goals are:

- o Ensure quality, comprehensive, direct services for all child abuse victims and their families in Lane County.
- o Coordinate all services to child witnesses of domestic violence.

- o Increase safety of and advocacy for victims of domestic violence
- o Increase availability of services and materials in Spanish

Rates of unduplicated, founded cases of child abuse and neglect in Lane County reached a ten year high in 2000, exceeding the state rate for eight of the last twelve years. In addition, in 1999 the CAC began to serve a new type of child victim – children who witness domestic violence. Under a 1997 Oregon statute, when a child witnesses domestic violence, the crime is upgraded from a Misdemeanor Assault to a Felony Assault IV. As a result, these children are responded to as victims of serious child abuse and are critical witnesses in the felony judicial process. The Child Advocacy Center of Lane County was the first in the nation to offer this assistance. With the growing rate of child abuse, addition of DV Child Witness cases to those children served by the CAC, and increased referrals to the Center, the number of children served has increased steadily.

To help meet these goals and objectives, the grant provide funds to the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center to support:

- o 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate (District Attorney CAC employee) to direct the DV Child Witness Project; recruit, train, and supervise volunteer victim advocates; and provide direct service
- o 1.0 FTE Office Assistant 1 (District Attorney CAC employee) to provide support and data entry and reporting
- o 1.0 FTE DV Investigator (Sheriff's Office employee - .57 FTE of this position during year 1 is funded by a federal STOP Violence Against Women grant)
- o 1.0 FTE Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Worker/Forensic Interviewer
- o 1.0 Womenspace Latina Advocate outstationed at Springfield Police Department
- o .25 FTE Womenspace Advocate to work with the Multidisciplinary Team
- o Womenspace Emergency Shelter and Transportation
- o Required travel for orientation, training, and technical assistance

C. Alternatives/Options

1. Adopt the Order increasing the revenue and expenditures and creating a Victim Advocate position and an Office Assistant position.
2. Amend the Order.
3. Reject the Order and the revenue.

D. Recommendation

Option 1, adopt the Order.

E. Timing

Upon approval of the motion, the CAC County budget will be revised and hiring for the Victim Advocate and Office Assistant will be completed.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.)
) In the matter of increasing revenues and expenditures in Fund 124
) and creating a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate position and a 1.0 FTE
) Office Assistant 1 position
)

WHEREAS, when a child witnesses domestic violence, the crime is upgraded from a Misdemeanor Assault to a Felony Assault IV, and

WHEREAS, these children are responded to as victims of serious child abuse and are critical witnesses in the felony judicial process, and

WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center of Lane County was the first in the nation to provide services to children who witness domestic violence, and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center have been granted a \$500,000 Rural Domestic Violence Child Victimization grant by the US Bureau of Justice Assistance Office on Violence Against Women for the Child Victimization and Witness to DV Project, and

WHEREAS, staff of the Child Advocacy Center are Lane County employees, and

WHEREAS, the grant will fund a 1.0 Victim Advocate and a 1.0 Office Assistant,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that:

1. Revenues and expenditures in Fund 124 be increased by \$69,068 in the District Attorney's Office; and
2. A Victim Advocate position and an Office Assistant position be created in the District Attorney's Office for the Child Advocacy Center.

APPROVED this _____ day of September, 2004.

Bobby Green, Sr., Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 8/24/04 Lane County
[Signature]
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

In the matter of increasing revenues and expenditures in Fund 124 and creating a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate position and a 1.0 FTE Office Assistant 1 position