

W. 3. C. L.

Memorandum Date: February 27, 2008
Order Date: March 12, 2008

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Children & Families

PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays, Department Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000 IN FUND 265 AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH LOOKING GLASS YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,711 FOR 17 MONTHS FOR THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH INITIATIVE

I. MOTION

Move to appropriate funds in the amount of \$125,000 in Fund 265 and delegate authority to contract with Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in the amount of \$102,711 for 17 months for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The State of Oregon, through its Oregon Commission on Children & Families (OCCF) issued a call for proposals from communities via Local Commissions on Children & Families (LCCF) to develop innovative approaches for meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth (RHY). The purpose of this funding is to enable communities to enhance, expand or create supports and services to runaway and homeless youth RHY by providing one or more of the commonly accepted elements inherent in the continuum of effective services for RHY. While these services are available to youth in the Eugene/Springfield metro area, the rural areas of our county are lacking in the supports and services necessary to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth. The OCCF Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative is an opportunity for our community to address the gaps in our response to Runaway and Homeless Youth.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Lane County submitted an application in response to the call for proposals. The Board approved submission of the application and delegated authority to the County Administrator to accept the award (BO 07-11-20-1). As noted below (Board Goals), related planning efforts have received Board of County Commissioners approval.

B. Policy Issues

This grant is in line with the County's policies and procedures as well as the purpose and objectives of the Department of Children & Families (DCF). If awarded, the department will administer the grant, and will provide support and assistance to the grant partners. The majority of the funds will pass through to local partners with minimal change in the scope of work for the department.

C. Board Goals

The Comprehensive Community Plan for Services to Children, Youth and Families was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 23, 2004 (BO 04-6-23-11) and can be found at:

<http://www.co.lane.or.us/CCF/documents/ComprehensiveCommunityStrategicPlan2004finaljun04.pdf>

It includes the following priorities which this funding would help achieve:

High Level Outcome 20: Decrease Runaway Behavior & Youth Homelessness

A) Increase the availability and range of services for at-risk and runaway youth and families directed toward stability and reunification.

B) Increase the availability and range of services for homeless youth.

In addition, this funding is in line with the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, approved by the Board of County Commissioners on November 8, 2006 (BO 06-11-8-1).

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The grant budget includes funding for DCF staff to carry out grant administration duties, including development of any contracts and/or intergovernmental agreements, facilitation of quarterly team meetings, preparation and submission of required fiscal and program reports, and other outcome monitoring responsibilities.

E. Analysis

Lane County has a state of the art continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth. However, services are located in the urban core of Springfield and Eugene. Rural communities are severely lacking in resources and supports for youth at-risk of family separation. Consequently, youth leave their home communities and migrate to urban centers abandoning family, support networks, and familiar surroundings. Rural services consist primarily of family resource centers, schools with McKinney-Vento Homeless liaisons, religious groups, and small non-profits that serve primarily homeless families and adults. When families are in trouble and parents are unable or unwilling to reach out, virtually no services are available in rural Lane County for assistance to youth.

The goal of this project is to enable communities to enhance, expand or create supports and services to RHY by providing one or more of the commonly accepted elements inherent in the continuum of effective services for RHY.

In October of 2007, as part of the application process, DCF published a letter of interest for agencies interested and able in providing comprehensive supports and services to runaway/homeless youth and their families, and consultation and training for local service providers on RHY service provision. Looking Glass was the only qualified respondent.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the appropriation of funds in fund 265 and award a contract to Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in the amount of \$102,711 for a period of 17 months.
2. Approve the appropriation of funds but decline to award the contract to Looking Glass and give the department direction on how to proceed.
3. Decline to appropriate the funds and give the department direction.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Option 1: Adopt the Order appropriating funds in the amount of \$125,000 in fund 265 and contract with Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in the amount of \$102,711 for a period of 17 months.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW UP

Upon Board approval, funds will be allocated and contract documents will be prepared and executed.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER No. IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000 IN FUND 265 AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH LOOKING GLASS YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,711 FOR 17 MONTHS FOR THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners previously approved submission and acceptance of a grant application to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Lane County through the Department of Children and Families was successful in its application for said funding; and

WHEREAS, Looking Glass Youth and Family Services was the sole qualified respondent to a Letter of Interest to provide comprehensive supports and services to runaway/homeless youth and their families and consultation and training for local service providers on RHY service provision; and

WHEREAS, the contract amount is beyond the County Administrator's delegated authority;

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Board of County Commissioners appropriate funding in the amount of \$125,000 in Fund 265 for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners delegate authority to the County Administrator to contract with Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in the amount of \$102,711 for a period of 17 months.

APPROVED this _____ day of March, 2008

Faye Stewart, Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 2/20/08 lane county
J. Haidlaw
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL