

Item 6



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: April 2, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Caryl Colburn, CES Director, 854-4618

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Roger Jefferies, Justice and Public Safety County Executive, 854-4759

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AN UP-DATE OF THE SAFE HAVENS GRANT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANETSAFE

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Travis County has received two grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The first received in FY08 was a two year planning grant for \$200,000 with an objective of planning a supervised visitation and a safe exchange center for children and parents in situations involving domestic violence by receiving input from the community. The goals of the planning grant (April, 2009 – July, 2011) that have all been met, were hiring a grant coordinator; establishing a Collaboration Team of multi-disciplinary stakeholders; creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with partners in the community; conducting a community needs assessment; and attending national training by the funder. In July, 2010 a name was also selected for the center, "PlanetSafe".

The second grant of \$400,000 supports a one year development component for a supervised visitation and safe exchange center and a two year implementation component (October, 2010 until September 30, 2013). As with the first grant, there is no financial match required of Travis County.

The first phase of development overlapped with the planning grant (October, 2010 – September, 2011) and the goals met during this phase were identifying 1101 Nueces St. as a safe and accessible site to provide services and receiving approval from both the Commissioners Court and OVW to use this location; the major partner of the grant, SafePlace, the domestic violence and sexual assault center for Travis County, was selected by the team to be the agency that will sub-contract with the county to administer PlanetSafe; developing policies/procedures and programmatic forms for the center, according to the requirements of OVW; creating the broader based Consulting

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Committee to oversee the creation of these, as well as, beginning to plan for the sustainability of the center.

The two year implementation phase began in March 2013 after final approval from OVV and release of our funding. The implementation grant will be extended until March, 2015. The program goals for this phase, which are now underway, include SafePlace hiring and training staff to implement services for the program; providing linguistically and culturally appropriate services; serving 20 families per year for the two year period; and creating a sustainability plan for the program. PlanetSafe will open for services on May 3, 2013 and a Grand Opening will be held on May 15, 2013 from Noon to 2 p.m. at 1101 Nueces St.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Proceed with the implementation of the PlanetSafe center on May 3, 2013 and the Grand Opening on May 15, 2013 at 1101 Nueces St.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: The opening of PlanetSafe is a significant event accomplished by the long-term collaboration of governmental, non-profit and other community entities involved with domestic violence issues, who came together as the Consulting Committee for the Safe Havens Grant. The implementation of the PlanetSafe center is an opportunity for Travis County to establish a comprehensive philosophical approach to family violence that centralizes victim safety.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: The main source of funding for the PlanetSafe center is \$400,000 through the Safe Havens Grant from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The current development and implementation grant runs from October, 2010 until September 30, 2013. However, the implementation phase of the grant will receive an extension to March, 2015 in order to complete the required two year implementation phase. Travis County also funds a \$45,000 contract with SafePlace for an Administrative Coordinator for PlanetSafe who has been key in the preparation and startup of the center, supports its administration functions, provides the training of staff and volunteers and is the only full time position at the center. Travis County also maintains the property at 1101 Nueces St. which is the location of PlanetSafe.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Roger Jefferies, Justice and Public Safety Executive Manager

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