

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Clerk of the Board Use Only**  
**Meeting Date** / / **Held Until** / /  
**Agenda Item No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Agenda Item No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department: DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

( ) **4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Karen H. Martin

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-2319

**Board Date:**  
08/04/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** Contract – California Human Development Corporation

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:** Authorize the Chair to execute a contract with the California Human Development Corporation in the amount of \$88,127 for Diversion and Treatment-Based Services for FY 09/10 and delegate authority for the District Attorney to sign any amendments or extensions that do not significantly change the program content and are within the approved budget authority.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD**

**Estimated Cost** \$ 88,127

**Contingencies** \$  
(Fund Name:)

**Amount Budgeted** \$ 88,127

**Unanticipated Revenue** \$  
(Source:)

**Other Avail Approp.** \$  
(Explain below)

**Other Transfer(s)** \$  
(Source:)

**Additional Requested:** \$ -0-

**Add'l Funds Requested:** \$ -0-

**Explanation (if required):** All funds are included in the FY 2009/10 budget.

**Prior Board Action(s):** The Board has executed this contract annually.

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:** This program would not be funded, and first time misdemeanor offenders would not have the option of participating in a diversion program. This would increase the workload for the criminal justice system.

**Background:**

The California Human Development Corporation (CHDC) provides three diversion programs for the County of Sonoma. By participating in one of these diversion programs, offenders who have a minimal criminal history are given the opportunity to avoid involvement in the criminal court system. These programs significantly lighten the already overwhelmed caseload of the misdemeanor courtrooms while holding the defendant completely accountable for his or her actions. Participation in diversion involves a needs assessment, referrals to resources tailored to the individual client, and stresses a "life skills" building approach that teaches the offender many valuable coping skills. A client's successful completion of the assigned activities will result in non-filing of criminal charges or dismissal of criminal charges. CHDC uses a follow-up system to track the progress of clients who have completed the program, and has a long-term track record of performing successfully. The District Attorney manages this program, and funds are included in their FY 09/10 budget. The projected cost of this program for FY 09/10 is \$88,127, which has not increased from FY 08/09, and it is anticipated that 2,500 offender will participate in one of these programs in FY 09/10.

The three diversion programs are as follows:

Project Intercept

This is a pre-trial diversion program for adult misdemeanor offenders, and is an alternative to the traditional court process. This program has been operated by CHDC for 34 years. Project Intercept is authorized under Penal Code 1001.1, which allows for postponement of prosecution of an offense filed as a misdemeanor either temporarily or permanently at any point in the judicial process from the point at which the accused is charged until adjudication. The Sonoma County Courts refers all participants. The offender is diverted into a Human Service based program which provides needs assessment with referrals for employment, education, mental health, and/or any other appropriate services that can best serve their needs. The program philosophy is to address the root cause of a person's criminal involvement. The intended result is the offender gains skills and accesses information which will help them live law-abiding lives. A successful completion of the program concludes with a dismissal of criminal charges.

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** California Human Development Corporation Contract

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**

**Background:** (Continued)

Adult Diversion Services

This is a pre-trial diversion program for adult misdemeanor offenders in which offenders are referred by the District Attorney's Office, prior to criminal charges being filed. Operation of this program began April 3, 1995. Offenders are allowed the opportunity of handling their cases outside a court of law. This not only benefits the program participant, but it also benefits the court by eliminating 500 cases from the court calendar annually. The program philosophy is identical to the human service based Project Intercept Program, and offenders receive referrals to services in mental health, employment, education, and other beneficial community resources. The intended result is that the offender gains access to services that help them live law-abiding lives. A successful completion of the program concludes with a recommendation for non-filing of criminal charges.

Deferred Entry of Judgement

This is a post-plea diversion program for adult misdemeanor and felony drug offenders. CHDC provides a more comprehensive program than is minimally required by the law. CHDC has operated this program since January 1996. Previous to that, it was operated by the Sonoma County Probation Department. Services provided include needs assessment, referral to 12+ hours of drug education and/or counseling, and referrals to other human-based resources such as affordable housing, food pantries, social services, parenting classes, mental health services, vocational training, and employment assistance. As a condition of diversion, random drug testing, HIV testing and counseling is required. The intended result is that the program participants gain access to resources and gain skills to help live lives of greater self-sufficiency. A successful completion of the program concludes with dismissal of the charges.

The District Attorney will be sending out an RFP for these services during FY 09/10, to discover if there are other agencies who may be able to provide these services. The District Attorney took over management of these existing programs from the Probation Department and the Sonoma County Courts, and is unaware of any RFPs previously being conducted. It is anticipated that the RFP will be completed prior to the 10/11 fiscal year, with a new contract in place, if appropriate, at that time.

**Recommendation:** Authorize the Chair to execute a contract with the California Human Development Corporation in the amount of \$88,127 for Diversion and Treatment-Based Services for FY 09/10 and delegate authority for the District Attorney to sign any amendments or extensions that do not significantly change the program content and are within the approved budget authority.