

**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:
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Board Date:
8/11/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: California Endowment Grant

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to accept a grant from the California Endowment for the purpose of establishing a Family Justice Center in Sonoma County

Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$12,500 in unanticipated revenue from the California Endowment

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Estimated Cost \$ 12,500

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$ 0

Unanticipated Revenue \$ 12,500
(Source:)California Endowment

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$ 12,500

Add'l Funds Requested: \$ 12,500

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s): In October 2008, the Board accepted the Family Justice Center Feasibility Study, approved the stakeholders' proposal to seek funding for the planning and implementation costs associated with the Family Justice Center, to include public and private grants, and authorized the District Attorney, on behalf of the stakeholders, to apply for grants from the California Endowment and the Office on Violence Against Women (United States Department of Justice).

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: The District Attorney would not be able to move forward with the Strategic Planning phase for the Sonoma County Family Justice Center. Grant funds would be returned to the granting agency.

Background:

On October 21, 2008, the District Attorney, on behalf of a broad group of stakeholders representing law enforcement, county and community based organizations, presented a feasibility study to the Board of Supervisors outlining the benefits to our community of establishing a Family Justice Center. The Family Justice Center concept is recognized by the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women as the best practice in family violence prevention and intervention services. If a Family Justice Center is established in Sonoma County will provide comprehensive family violence services at one central location, co-locating critical providers and establishing video link-ups to outlying locations in the county. The expected benefits include increased victim safety and victim confidence in the criminal justice system, increased offender accountability, increased access to and utilization of family violence services, and increased efficiency.

The Board received the Feasibility study and endorsed the recommendation that the stakeholders, which include the District Attorney's Office; the Sheriff's Department; the Department of Health Services; the Human Services Department; Sonoma County Superior Court; other county, city and law enforcement agencies; and community-based organizations, including the YWCA and United Against Sexual Assault (UASA), take part in a strategic planning process, with the goal of developing an implementation plan for the launch of a Sonoma County Family Justice Center. The Board also approved the stakeholders' proposal to seek funding for the planning and implementation costs associated with the Family Justice Center, to include public and private grants, and authorized the District Attorney to apply for grants from the California Endowment and from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, for strategic planning and implementation of the Sonoma County Family Justice Center.

The Board further directed the District Attorney to return to the Board to request acceptance of grant funding and approval to move forward with the next steps for the implementation of a Sonoma County Family Justice Center.

We are pleased to report back to the Board that the California Endowment has awarded \$300,000 toward establishing a Family Justice Center. The District Attorney is requesting authorization to accept this grant, and to appropriate \$12,500 for the purpose of strategic planning, as authorized by the terms of the grant. The balance of the award will be deposited in a special revenue fund and held until such time as the Board authorizes the implementation of the strategic plan.

Attachments: Resolution; Appropriation Transfer

On File With Clerk: The California Endowment Restricted Project Grant Agreement; Sonoma County Family Justice Center Feasibility Study

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background: (Continued)

A planning consultant was engaged to assist in the strategic planning phase, and a kickoff strategic planning event was held on June 18th. The District Attorney and the other stakeholders are moving forward in earnest on strategic planning, with the goal of developing an implementation plan for the FJC.

The strategic planning phase is anticipated to be completed over the course of four months. The objective is to develop an implementation plan including a long term diversified funding sustainability plan. The results of the planning process will include defining the vision and mission of the FJC, setting the key goals, objectives and indicators of success, defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner, and developing the first year implementation plan.

Once the implementation plan is completed, the District Attorney will return to the Board for acceptance of the plan, and with a funding strategy which will include the funding sources for each component of the implementation phase. This plan will also include our plans for locating and procuring a site for the Sonoma County FJC, with the intention that a site for the FJC will be procured within the next six to twelve months, and will be fully funded by non-General Fund monies.

In order to help fund the FJC's critical initial capital needs, including obtaining and equipping a suitable site, the District Attorney is seeking, through U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson and U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, a one-time \$1 million federal appropriation. The District Attorney will return to the Board with further information on this pending request when the funding becomes available.

Funding opportunities will continue to be sought after and applied for. Key stakeholder representatives discuss funding and implementation strategies on a weekly basis, and the full committee meets monthly. The stakeholders are currently working on several funding strategies:

- An anonymous donor has pledged to donate \$500,000 over the course of 5 years toward the creation of our Family Justice Center. The Community Foundation of Sonoma County is creating the Family Justice Center Fund to oversee this donation and to partner with us in seeking matching funds for this collaborative effort.
- In January 2009, the stakeholders submitted a grant proposal to the Office on Violence Against Women, under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program. If the grant application is successful, the awarded amount will be \$400,000 and will be received in October 2009. The funding from this grant will be dedicated to staffing, location and equipment costs for the SCFJC. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by OVW within the next several weeks as to which projects will receive funding.
- Blue Shield of California has awarded \$1.4 million to the National Family Justice Center Alliance, which will be used to launch the California Family Justice Initiative, a network of "one-stop" family violence service centers across California. The stakeholders applied for funding under this program, and were recently selected for and hosted a site visit as part of the evaluation process. We anticipate that the National Family Justice Center will reach a decision in the next few weeks as to which projects they will fund.
- On behalf of the stakeholders, the District Attorney and the YWCA, as well as the county's lobbyists, have been working closely with California State Senator Wiggins on SB 635, a bill she introduced. If adopted, this bill will authorize the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, upon making findings and declarations of the need for governmental oversight and coordination of domestic violence agencies, to increase fees for certain vital records and use those fees for governmental oversight and coordination of domestic violence and family violence prevention and interventions efforts. It is anticipated that this will provide approximately \$100,000 annually to the County of Sonoma. If this bill is successful, the District Attorney will be requesting that the Board approve expenditure of these funds toward the on-going operating costs of the FJC. To date, SB 635 has passed through both the Senate and Assembly and will be heading to the Governor's office for action.

- Additional potential funding sources include the U.S. Department of Justice Recovery Act Stimulus funds, and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). The stakeholders are monitoring these potential funding sources. A request for concept papers was just announced, with a deadline of August 31, 2009 for Violence Against Women Act funds distributed through CalEMA. We will be submitting a proposal.
- As mentioned above, the Sonoma County Community Foundation has endorsed the FJC endeavor and is assisting with the effort to obtain philanthropic funds via a circle of donors who have a keen interest in seeing a Family Justice Center established in our community.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Approve a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to accept a grant from the California Endowment for the purpose of establishing a Family Justice Center in Sonoma County

Approve a Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$12,500 in unanticipated revenue from the California Endowment