

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

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

**Department:** Health Services

**4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
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**Phone:**  
(707) 565-4700

**Board Date:**  
10/27/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
10/27/2009

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** Dependency Drug Court Expansion Grant Award.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Authorize the Director of Health Services to execute Grant Agreement No. 2009-DC-BX-0101 with the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, for October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012, and future amendments that do not significantly change the scope of work (\$498,896).

Authorize the Director of Health Services to execute contracts with community-based organizations and project consultants to support the Dependency Drug Court Expansion Project, for October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012, and any amendments that do not significantly change the scope of work (\$366,750).

Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment to the FY 09-10 Final Budget within the Special Revenue Fund - Department of Health Services in the amount of \$85,319 (requires 4/5 vote).

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES:**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:**

<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$85,319</b>	<b>Contingencies</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>(Fund Name:)</b>	
<b>Amount Budgeted</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Unanticipated Revenue</b>	<b>\$85,319</b>
		<b>(Source: DOJ OJJDP Grant)</b>	
<b>Other Available Appropriations</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Other Transfers</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>(Explain Below)</b>		<b>(Source:)</b>	
<b>Additional Requested</b>	<b>\$85,319</b>	<b>Additional Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$85,319</b>

**Explanation (if required):** For FY 09-10, the Department is appropriating \$85,319 of the three year award amount (\$498,896). The remaining \$413,577 will be included in future budget requests.

**Prior Board Action:** 9/19/06 – Final Adoption of the FY 06-07 County Budget authorized use of County General Funds for pilot Dependency Drug Court.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:** Lost opportunity to expand the Dependency Drug Court and contribute findings to national and state efforts to establish best practices for Family Drug Courts. Note: To meet the deadline for acceptance of the award, the deadline for Board action is 10/27/09.

**Background:**

Dependency Drug Courts (DDCs) are designed to improve treatment and outcomes for families involved in child welfare cases and affected by substance abuse disorders. The DDC approach is rooted in the adult criminal drug court movement, which began in the early 1990s. DDC is a court-supervised comprehensive treatment program for mothers and guardians whose children have been removed or are in danger of being removed from their home as a result of child abuse or neglect stemming from the parent's alcohol or other drug use. A review of the 2005-06 new cases filed in Sonoma County Juvenile Dependency Court revealed that 71 (45 female, 26 male) out of 104 parents qualify for DDC services. This fact and early research findings regarding the effectiveness of DDC programs led to the establishment of a pilot Sonoma County DDC using County General Funds.

On May 2, 2006, a Sonoma County multidisciplinary group consisting of staff from the Human Services Department, Department of Health Services Alcohol and Other Drug Services Division, Superior Court, Drug Court and attorneys for mothers collaboratively planned and began implementation of DDC. The Sonoma County Drug Dependency Court pilot is a voluntary 12-month program that includes regular court appearances, community-based alcohol and other drug abuse treatment, 12-step participation and other support services.

Alcohol and other drug abuse problems have consistently proven to be a key factor in a large number of child welfare cases. Consequently, there has been increased attention to improving service systems to ensure that parents have access to timely and appropriate treatment services needed to provide a safe home for their children. These efforts were made even more urgent by the introduction of the Adoption and Safe Families Act in 1997 which specifies that a child's health and safety must be paramount in decision making. The Act mandates a one-year timeline for permanency hearings which limits the time that parents have to address their substance abuse issues and achieve successful reunification of their family. The purpose of the permanency hearing is to determine if the child can be returned to the parent, placed for adoption or placed with a permanent custodian.

Since autumn 2006, County staff has been actively seeking funding opportunities to expand DDC. In spring 2009, the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released a request for proposals to build the capacity of various government units to develop and establish DDCs. The OJJDP requires a 25% cash or in-kind match be identified in the proposal. The Sonoma County multidisciplinary group developed a proposal which was submitted by the AODS Division.

The Department of Justice approved the County's proposal for funding in the amount of \$498,896 for the period of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2012. These funds will expand the Sonoma County DDC from 15 to 30 women whose children have been removed or at risk of being removed from their care as a result of child abuse or neglect associated with a mother's alcohol or other drug abuse. The DDC Program will:

1. Decrease the incidence of child abuse/neglect by mothers with substance abuse disorders;
2. Improve developmental outcomes for children; and,
3. Improve permanency outcomes for children.

Goals address a variety of behaviors targeted for change including decrease and/or elimination of substance use and participation in family-focused interventions leading to improved family stability and functioning. These goals will be achieved through specific objectives and evaluated with performance measures as noted in Attachment A. The Department will administer, track and evaluate program implementation and will be responsible for reporting on progress and outcomes to OJJDP.

The Department brings this item before the Board today to ensure acceptance of the award as required as, no later than 45 days from receipt.

Services will be provided through the Sonoma County AODS Network of Care. Contracts with existing Perinatal Day Treatment and Residential Treatment Services providers will be amended as noted below. The service provider of the Strengthening Families Program (\$36,000) will be selected through a competitive process.

	<b>Amount</b>
1. Drug Abuse Alternatives Center (AOD Treatment - Perinatal Day Treatment Program)	\$107,439
2. Women's Recovery Services (AOD Treatment - Residential Program)	96,811
3. Latino Commission's Casa Teresa (AOD Treatment - Residential Program)	76,500
4. Children and Family Futures (Program Evaluation)	50,000
5. Contractor to be determined ("Strengthening Families Program")	36,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$366,750</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Health Services receives general fund contribution annually for substance abuse treatment services. AODS Division has dedicated \$173,219 in FY 09-10 general fund contribution to the Dependency Drug Court program. The OJJPD grant funds will expand services (\$366,750); provide drug testing (\$39,000); fund 0.2 FTE HSD Social Worker (\$81,146); and program supplies, incentives, and staff training (\$12,000) for FY 09-10 through FY12-13.

For FY 09-10, the Department is appropriating \$85,319 of the three federal fiscal year award amount (\$498,896). The remaining \$413,577 will be included in future budget requests (FY 10-11 \$149,408, FY 11-12 \$208,209, and FY 12-13 \$55,960).

No additional contribution from the general fund is required to support this program for FY 09-10. The Department will propose funding of this program in future budgets.

**Attachments:** Attachment A; Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment in the amount of \$85,319.

**On File With Clerk:** Notice of Grant Award.

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<b>Board Action (If other than "Requested")</b>	<b>Vote:</b>