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AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: August 20, 2008
TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: ORDER _____ / IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING TWO FULL TIME (2.0 FTE) PERMANENT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SPECIALIST POSITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES.

I. MOTION

In the Matter of Establishing Two Full Time (2.0 FTE) Permanent Developmental Disabilities Specialist Positions for the Developmental Disabilities Services Program in the Department of Health & Human Services.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

On July 1, 2008 the Lane County Developmental Disabilities (DD) Services Program had received increased funding from the state to address an increase in individuals with developmental disabilities in Lane County seeking assistance. This agenda item seeks to establish two positions to provide more case management to support services for eligible individuals.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History:

The Board made a discretionary decision to decrease the county general funds in the DD Program budget by \$155,000 during the 2008-09 budget process. Consequently, the program decreased the number of DDS caseload-carrying case management positions from 18 down to 16 to absorb this loss of revenue.

Subsequent to that reduction, the DD Program learned they were receiving increases in on-going service dollars from the state Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Agreement with Lane County. The funding increase resulted from increases in allocations, based on increases in caseloads. This funding is expected to continue into the future and the

There are no administrative policy issues that affect this agenda item.

C. Board Goals

The request for two full time DDS positions relates to the Lane County strategic goal of Resource Planning and Allocation. Specifically, B1: Develop plans for the chief resources applied to deliver County services – human resources. Establishing these positions meets the definitions of “Analyzing future workforce needs” and “Identifying actions to assure the workforce capabilities meet future needs.”

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The cost of these positions is \$141,742 or \$70,871 each. Both full-time DDS positions will be funded through state grant funds that are dedicated to the DD Program services.

E. Analysis

These positions impact the DDS Program in several ways.

One DDS position will be dedicated to case management. The case management role provides basic health and support services to individuals; facilitates referrals to financial support programs (such as the federal Supplemental Security Income - SSI), as well as referrals to medical, housing, mental health, and educational services. The case management position will carry a full caseload of 134 adults with developmental disabilities, who have no other access to critical services. The impact will be the ability to provide the following mandated services for individuals with developmental disabilities: basic health and safety support case management services to 134 adults; assisting 38 individuals to gain access to housing; providing assistance to 29 clients in accessing SSI or Social Security benefits (SSB); and, assisting 50 individuals in accessing medical services.

The other DDS position will coordinate and provide technical assistance to the adult foster care providers in Lane County. Adult foster care providers give care for 250 adults with developmental disabilities in 100 licensed family-style homes. Adult foster care provides a cost-effective home-like living situation for DD individuals. The behavioral and care needs of DD individuals can be very complex and/or violent, requiring support, training, and direction from DDS staff.

The coordinator serves in key liaison, problem-solving, intervention, and ongoing training for the DDS adult foster care providers. Without the adult foster provider coordinator, the needs of the foster providers are not adequately addressed, due to the large caseloads maintained by case

managers. The lack of this coordinator position will increase the likelihood of placement difficulties or failure.

F. Alternative / Options

1. Establishing two full time (2.0 FTE) Developmental Disabilities Specialist positions in the Lane County Developmental Disabilities Program. The funding needed to support these positions is ongoing and appropriated in the program budget. This action will re-establish the client case management support at the 2007-08 level and reinstate the adult foster care coordinator function, thus, providing better care for clients and more stability in the foster care system.
2. Not establishing the two Developmental Disabilities Specialists positions will result in the Lane County Developmental Disabilities Program carrying caseloads without adequate staff support and providing inadequate case management and service facilitation to vulnerable individuals with developmental disabilities and not maintaining adequate support and technical assistance to the foster care system for adult clients with developmental disabilities in Lane County.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Upon Board approval, Lane County Human Resources will create the position numbers and post the positions.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation supported by the Department of Health & Human Services and Lane County Developmental Disabilities is as follows:

1. Establish two full time (2.0 FTE) Developmental Disabilities Specialists positions effective August 20, 2008 in the Department of Health & Human Services.

VII. FOLLOW-UP

No follow-up actions by the board are anticipated. The funding to support these positions is ongoing and permanent. Once the positions are established, the hiring process will fill them and they will be built in to the program budget in subsequent fiscal years.

V. ATTACHMENT

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION AND ORDER:) IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING TWO FULL TIME (2.0 FTE)
) PERMANENT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SPECIALIST
) POSITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
) SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &
) HUMAN SERVICES.

WHEREAS, Lane County receives funds through the 2007-09 County Financial Assistance Agreement to provide developmental disabilities services, a portion of the Lane County Community Mental Health Program; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Administrative Rules requires Community Mental Health Programs to provide adequate staffing, oversight, and services to clients receiving services; and,

WHEREAS, DDS staff provide services essential to the clients with developmental disabilities that are served by the program including case management and coordination and training for the adult foster home services ; and,

WHEREAS, the DD Program has determined that sufficient service fund increases from the Department of Human Services grant had been awarded during the 2007-08 fiscal year to cover the \$141,742 needed to create two positions; and,

WHEREAS, the additional funding is ongoing and has been appropriated into the DD Program budget for fiscal year 2008-09.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners establish two full time (2.0 FTE) Developmental Disability Specialist positions for services within the Lane County Developmental Disabilities Program effective August 20, 2008 and appropriate the additional 2.0 FTE in the FY 08-09 Budget in Health & Human Services Fund 286.

DATED this 20th day of August, 2008

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 8/13/08 Lane county
[Signature]
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL