TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mary Butler - Chief Probation Officer
Probation
REPORT BY: Lynn Perez, Staff Services Manager - 253-4126
SUBJECT: Renewal of Agreement with Isadora Asch for Peer Court

RECOMMENDATION
Chief Probation Officer requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the renewal of Agreement No. 4802 with Isadora Asch for a maximum of $35,520 for the term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for the provision of Peer Court services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Peer Court Program has been operating in Napa County since 1998. The program originated in the Juvenile Courts but responsibility transferred to the Probation Department in Fiscal Year 2002-03 to improve coordination of referrals with the Juvenile Court Probation Officer. Approval of this agreement will allow Ms. Asch to continue to serve as the coordinator of the Peer Court program. Funds for this program are provided by the Napa Special Investigations Bureau (NSIB) Community Trust Fund, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and the Probation Department's Asset Forfeiture Funds. Ms. Asch is a local vendor.

FISCAL IMPACT
Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes
Is it currently budgeted? No
What is the revenue source? Funding for this agreement will come from the Community Services Trust Account approved by the NSIB Governing Board ($18,000) and the Department has applied for $10,005 in Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Direct Allocation Grant Application funds. The remaining balance of $7,515 will be
transferred from the Probation’s Asset Forfeiture Fund. Revenue and expenditures will be included as a Supplemental Request as part of the Recommended FY 2010-11 budget.

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Discretionary Justification: This action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to have this specific agreement. However, funding has been approved by the NSIB Governing Board to provide for a portion of the Peer Court Coordinator salary. In addition the Department has submitted a Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Direct Allocation Grant Application and has committed a portion of its Asset Forfeiture Funds for this service. Approval of the requested action will allow the Department to continue paying Ms. Asch for the provision of supportive services to at-risk youth in the community who would otherwise impact the juvenile court workload.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: This agreement ends June 30, 2011. Future appropriations will be budgeted accordingly as funding permits.

Consequences if not approved: If this agreement is not approved, Ms. Asch will not be able to facilitate Peer Court services and there will be an increase in the number of juveniles referred to the juvenile court system, thus impacting the workloads of juvenile court officers.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Peer Court program diverts first time juvenile offenders from the Napa County Juvenile Court. These juveniles agree to be tried and judged by their peers and to comply with conditions set by them so that justice may be achieved. If a minor completes the program successfully, his or her case is closed and no formal charges are filed. The Peer Court Coordinator recruits and trains juvenile volunteers to staff Peer Court and utilizes adult professionals to serve as consultants to the minors. The Coordinator also oversees all activities needed to produce a minimum of one Peer Court session per month during the school year. Each year approximately 150 students participate in the actual court sessions as volunteers and serve as jurors, attorneys, clerks and bailiffs. Additionally, more than 8,000 eighth grade students in almost all the public schools in the County have learned about the court system through the Criminal Justice Education Curriculum introduced to the schools by Ms. Asch.

The Napa County Peer Court Program was funded by Juvenile Probation Funding (JPF). However, during the current fiscal budget, the State shifted funding for this program from the General Fund to Vehicle License Fees which has impacted the funding of this program significantly. As part of the Fiscal Year 2010-2011, funding in the amount of $37,520 to provide these services, including up-valley outreach was eliminated.
On May 27, 2010, the NSIB Governing Board approved $18,000 for the Napa County Peer Court from the Community Services Trust Account. In addition, the Department has applied for a Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Direct Allocation Grant Application in the amount of $10,005 to fund a portion of this agreement. The remaining $7,515 will be transferred from Probation's Asset Forfeiture Fund. Appropriations for this program will be made through a Supplemental Budget Request. The contract for Peer Court has remained at the Fiscal Year 2008-09 funding level. Ms. Asch is a local vendor.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve
Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan