



Agenda Date: 8/2/2005
Agenda Placement: 6A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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

RECOMMENDATION

Chief Probation Officer requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign Agreement No. 4802 with Isadora Asch for a maximum of \$35,520 for the term August 2, 2005 through June 30, 2006 for 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 FY 02-03 to improve coordination of referrals with the Juvenile Court Probation Officer.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Probation
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Costs for services under this agreement are included in the Probation Departments recommended budget. Funding for this program is provided through the state Juvenile Probation Funding, formerly TANF funds.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	This agreement ends June 30, 2006. The agreement is reviewed annually by the department and will not be renewed if funding is not found.

Consequences if not approved: There will be an increase of juveniles referred to the Juvenile Court System, thus impacting the workloads of juvenile court officers.

Additional Information: None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no Environmental Impact for this item.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

This program diverts first time juvenile offenders from the Napa County Juvenile Court system. 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. Since 1998, more than 1000 Napa County middle and high school students have participated in Peer Court acting as attorneys, jurors, witnesses, and clerks. Additionally, more than 4160 eighth grade students in four Napa County middle schools have learned about the court system through a Peer Court curriculum introduced to the schools by Ms. Asch.

Due to decrease in state funding, the FY 04-05 Peer Court Program was funded through a donation from the Wine Auction through the Juvenile Justice Network, a non-profit organization. For the current fiscal year budget, funds were appropriated with Juvenile Probation Funding, formerly TANF.

The contract for Peer Court has increased \$5,520 from last fiscal year. This increase is due from going from a monthly to an hourly rate in addition to being the first increase provided for the Peer Court Program in six years. Additional up valley outreach and coordination services in the amount of \$2,000 will be provided under separate agreement with a different provider. Due to that agreement being under \$10,000, it will be signed by the Chief Probation Officer. The total cost for the Peer Court Program, including up valley outreach, is \$37,520.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi