

Agenda Date: 8/9/2016 Agenda Placement: 6H

# NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **Board Agenda Letter**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

FROM: JoAnn Melgar for HOWARD HIMES - Director

Health & Human Services Operations

**REPORT BY:** JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with MV Transportation Inc.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign an agreement with MV Transportation, Inc. for a maximum of \$92,124 for the term August 9, 2016 through February 10, 2017 to provide shuttle service from the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Old Sonoma Road campus to the Napa Valley Transit Agency downtown transit center and the HHSA South Campus to ensure that clients have access to appointments for services.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Beginning August 15, 2016, Child Welfare Services and Children's Mental Health will begin providing services at the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) South Campus. By the end of August 2016, all of the divisions that currently operate at the HHSA Old Sonoma Road campus will have moved to the South Campus, with the exception of the Therapeutic Child Care Center.

In anticipation of the move and in response to concerns about clients not being able to access services at the new campus, HHSA conducted a transportation survey between October and December 2015 to determine the value of offering a free shuttle to the South Campus. Ninety-four percent of the clients who responded to the survey indicated that they would ride a free shuttle if one was offered.

Staff is collecting data from program divisions before and after the move to evaluate the effect of the move on client participation in programs. In addition, during the six-month shuttle trial, ridership data will be collected and shared with Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) to evaluate options for continuing the shuttle or adjusting transit service to better serve the South Campus.

MV Transportation, Inc. is not a local vendor; this contractor was selected through a Request for Proposals

process.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes
Is it currently budgeted? Yes

Where is it budgeted? Health & Human Services Administration

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Discretionary Justification: This agreement is discretionary in that there is no mandate to contract for

these services.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: None; the contract terminates February 10, 2017.

Consequences if not approved: If this agreement is not approved, clients will be unable to rely on a timely bus

service to provide transportation to and from appointments at the new Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) South Campus, and it is possible that

program compliance will decrease significantly.

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

Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) staff and community partners conducted several focus groups regarding the upcoming move of HHSA to the new South Campus located at 2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive. Staff determined that focus groups were the best method for obtaining quality input and in-depth information from the public about South Campus access issues for clients. Each focus group followed the same format to maintain consistency. Focus Group A consisted of County of Napa Health and Human Services Agency staff. Focus Group B consisted of local community partner organizations. All focus groups included a variety of ages, gender, race, occupations, income and education. In those focus groups, a common theme emerged centering around the concern of a potential decline in program participation by clients due to the lack of transportation options when traveling to the South Campus.

HHSA conducted a transportation survey between October and December 2015 to determine the value of offering a free shuttle to the South Campus from the Old Sonoma Road Campus and to gain further insight regarding the likely use and need of a free shuttle.

Three hundred seventy-six surveys were collected from clients at the following sites:

HHSA Alcohol and Drug Services Division

- HHSA Child Welfare Services Division (CWS)
- HHSA Mental Health Division (MH)
- HHSA Public Health Division (PH)
- HHSA Self Sufficiency Services Division (SSD)
- HHSA Kitchen staff
- South Napa Shelter
- People Empowering People (PEP)
- McPherson Community Center

Ninety-four percent of the clients who responded to the survey indicated that they would ride a free shuttle if one was offered.

Offering a free shuttle at no cost to clients offers the following benefits:

- Increase and improve the frequency of travel to the South Campus
- Mitigate bus transfer costs to clients traveling to the South Campus for services from Upvalley
- Reduce vehicle traffic at a location that is not well suited for pedestrians at this time
- Increase foot traffic to the downtown area of Napa by creating a centralized transportation hub
- Offer a centralized location to transport clients from all over Napa County who use the transit system
- Reduce the cost and potential financial barrier of traveling to the South Campus for our most vulnerable populations
- Address the concern expressed by clients, staff and community partners regarding limited travel options to the South Campus.

Route 11 stops at the South Campus between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. fifteen times per day. However, the intervals of service to and from the South Campus vary from 30 minutes to 75 minutes. In comparison, bus service to Old Sonoma Road runs consistently every 30 minutes. Lengthy and inconsistent intervals would make it difficult to attend and schedule appointments at HHSA. One of the goals of moving to the South Campus was to create a centralized campus to provide services in a more streamlined manner. Mitigating transportation costs and removing barriers to accessing the campus is integral to accomplishing this goal at the new location.

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Collins