



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 21, 2024*

**DATE:** Thursday, May 16, 2024

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Kendra A. Materasso Family Services Manager  
Second Judicial District Court, 775-328-3854  
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**THROUGH:** Alicia Lerud, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactively for Family Peace Center operating expenses; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

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### **SUMMARY**

The Second Judicial District Court has received \$20,000 in grant funds from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to continue access to visitation services at the Family Peace Center (FPC) for court-involved families. Grant funds will be used to support supervised contact between children and parents when visitation rights have been interrupted or when visitation is unsafe after separation or divorce. Courts struggle with just remedies to visitation disputes, supporting the integrity of the child's time with each parent and fostering a child's relationship with siblings and extended family. These are key reasons supervised visitation programs are needed. This grant covers operating costs of the Peace Center such as funding for two Washoe County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") Deputies to be on site at the Family Peace Center during all non-Court hours when visitation and exchange services are being provided. This ensures a safe environment, particularly when there are concerns about domestic violence, substance abuse, or a parent's mental health. By making safe contact possible between a child and non-custodial parent during the pendency of legal proceedings, important family relationships are supported and maintained.

### **Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:**

County Priority supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On March 22, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 6C, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$25,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to November 13, 2015, through November 12, 2016.

On August 8, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 6G (2), the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$30,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

On January 23, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 6.F.1, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$10,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to December 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

On August 28, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 10.I.1, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to May 11, 2018, through October 1, 2018.

On January 8, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 8.C.2, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to January 1, 2019, through May 31, 2019.

On July 23, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 5.G.1, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to June 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

On February 11, 2020, Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 6C, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to January 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020.

On November 15, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 9.D.2, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$81,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactive to July 1, 2022.

On March 28, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 7.D.1, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, to support the Family Peace Center, retroactively to December 31, 2022.

On September 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged item 6.D.4, the Second Judicial District Court's request to accept \$20,000, from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactively for the Family Peace Center operating expenses.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Second Judicial District Court has provided supervised visitation and exchange services for court-referred families since 1996. In 2003, Washoe County received funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, Safe Havens to provide visitation services for adult and child victims of domestic violence. The grant supported a stand-alone visitation center known as the Family Peace Center. The Safe Havens grant ended in 2006. Visitation and exchange services continued at the Family Peace Center with funding from the Second Judicial District Court, supplemented with grants and donations.

In July 2010, the Family Peace Center relocated to the courthouse due to lack of funding for a building lease. The Family Peace Center now operates in a small space on the second floor of the District Court where services are provided six days a week. It is imperative the District Court continue to provide these needed services to the community.

In June 2023, the Family Peace Center relocated to the 350 South Center Street building on the first floor. The new location provides a visitation space, approximately two (2) times the size of that at the courthouse. The Center currently still maintains visitation six days a week. However, the larger space will allow for an increase in the number of families on each visitation track.

In January 2024, the Family Peace Center added a Wednesday exchange track. Should additional visitation tracks be needed on Wednesday, those can be added also.

The Family Peace Center operates 6 days per week:

- Monday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This grant contributes to funding for two WCSO Deputies to be on site at the Family Peace Center during all non-Court hours when visitation services are being provided.

Providing “safe access” of children to parents they would not otherwise see is central to Family Peace Center services. In circumstances where abusive behavior has been part of the family fabric, ensuring participants feel physically and emotionally safe is a priority. Providing a safe environment for visitation and exchanges also protects the public, as these visits and exchanges would otherwise occur in an unsupervised public setting where the potential for violence exists. This grant ensures safeguards are in place to assure a child’s contact with a non-custodial parent is safe and appropriate.

**GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *Family Peace Center*

**Scope of the Project:** *The Second Judicial District Court will continue to provide access to safe supervised visitation and exchange services at the Family Peace Center. Enhancing security is consistent with best practices for visitation centers serving children and adult victims of domestic violence and complies with Sec.406 of the Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *Supervised visitation centers are an essential component of an integrated community response to protect victims of abuse. Providing a safer and more secure environment for children to visit with a non-custodial parent enhances community safety.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *N/A.*

**Award Amount:** *\$20,000*

**Grant Period:** *N/A*

**Funding Source:** *Lee F. Del Grande Foundation*

**Pass Through Entity:** *N/A*

**CFDA Number:** *N/A*

**Grant ID Number:** *N/A*

**Match Amount and Type:** *N/A.*

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** *N/A.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board acknowledge this grant, the Second Judicial District Court adopted FY 2024 budget will be increased by \$20,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IO# 29006 Lee F. Del Grande Family Peace Center	484195 – Non-Gov’t Grant	\$20,000
IO# 29006 Lee F. Del Grande Family Peace Center	701300 – Overtime	\$20,000

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, for Family Peace Center operating expenses; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with the Second Judicial District Court's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, for Family Peace Center operating expenses; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments.