



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 12, 2019

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mary Herzik, Family Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court
(775) 328-3299, mary.herzik@washocourts.us

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge and accept the final distribution of the Estate of Phillip Dare to the beneficiaries, including the sum of [\$1,187.38] to Family Services, CASA, a program of the Second Judicial District Court; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The CASA Program of the Family Services Department of the Second Judicial District Court received funds totaling \$56,171.99 from the Estate of Mr. Phillip Dare in June 2016. Mr. Dare was a long time resident of Zephyr Cove, Nevada according to Mr. Gordon R. Muir, Esq. of Hawkins, Folsom & Muir, Executor of the Estate. The sum of \$1,187.38 represents the final distribution of the estate to the beneficiaries, including Family Services, CASA.

These additional funds will be used to expand and strengthen volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children under the jurisdiction of the Court. On an average day in Washoe County, 900 abused and neglected children live in foster care because they cannot live safely at home. The Second Judicial District Court's CASA Program supports trained CASA volunteers who advocate for the best interests of the child, working to move them out of the child welfare system and into a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible. The core responsibilities of the CASA are to advocate for the child's best interests in the courtroom, act as a watchdog for the child during the duration of the case, serve as a fact finder for the judge, and ensure the court has all the relevant facts and up to date information about the child. Last year, CASA served 215 children.

County Priority supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 28, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledged a bequest of \$56,171.99 from the estate of Phillip Dare to Family Services, CASA, agenda item 5.C.

BACKGROUND

CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates is a program of the Second Judicial District Court. In Washoe County, CASA started in 1989 and is now part of a national network of 979 state and local CASA programs operating in 49 states. These programs recruit and train community volunteers to be independent fact finders for the Court and to speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children under the court's jurisdiction. Trained, court-appointed volunteers have demonstrated that they effectively support abused and neglected children in addition to providing the court with important information concerning the children they work with. To ensure more children in Washoe County have the benefit of a CASA volunteer, the bequest from the estate of Mr. Philip Dare will be used to expand the volunteer base and provide an opportunity for advanced volunteer training at an annual Washoe CASA Conference. In 2018, 89 CASA volunteers attended the 1 ½ day CASA conference at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno funded by the Dare bequest.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board acknowledge and accept this final distribution, the adopted budget will be increased by \$1,187.38 in both revenues and expenditures. The accounts impacted are as follows:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
IO# 20415	484195	\$1,187.38
IO# 20415	710100	\$1,187.38

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge and accept the final distribution of the Estate of Phillip Dare to the beneficiaries, including the sum of [\$1,187.38] to Family Services, CASA, a program of the Second Judicial District Court; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the Second Judicial District Court's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Recommend to acknowledge and accept the final distribution of the Estate of Phillip Dare to the beneficiaries, including the sum of [\$1,187.38] to Family Services, CASA, a program of the Second Judicial District Court; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary amendments.