



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 8, 2017

DATE: Wednesday, July 12, 2017

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Social Services
(775) 785-8600, ahowell@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: For possible action to conduct a second reading and adopt an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 45 by revising provisions relating to the Washoe County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services by combining the two into the Human Services Agency; by repealing the Social Services Advisory Board, adding and revising various definitions, and all other matters properly relating thereto. The Board of County Commissioners introduced and conducted a first reading of the proposed ordinance change on June 27, 2017. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

Conduct a public hearing for possible action to conduct a second reading and adopt an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 45 by revising provisions relating to the Washoe County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services by combining the two into the Human Services Agency; and by repealing, adding and revising various definitions, and all other matters properly relating thereto. The Board of County Commissioners introduced and conducted a first reading of the proposed ordinance change on June 27, 2107.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 27, 2017 The Board of County Commissioners introduced and conducted a first reading of Bill 1781 for an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 45 by revising provisions relating to Washoe County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services by combining the two into the Human Services Agency; by repealing the Social Services Advisory Board, adding and revising various definitions, and all other

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matters properly relating thereto; and set the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on July 11, 2017.

On November 13, 2012 the Board of County Commissioners appointed Kevin Schiller as Project Leader for work required to evaluate the feasibility of a Washoe County Human Services Agency that would integrate the Departments of Social Services, Senior Services, and the Public Guardian.

On November 12, 2013 the Board accepted a status report and staff recommendations regarding integrating the Social Services and Senior Services Departments to create the Washoe County Human Services Agency.

On November 15, 2015 the Board approved a request by the County Manager's Office through the County Clerk, pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030, to initiate proceedings to amend Washoe County Code Chapter 45 related to integrating Social Services and Senior Services Departments to create the Washoe County Human Services Agency, and direct the Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.040.

On June 27, 2017 the Board of County Commissioners introduced and conducted a first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 45 by revising provisions relating to the Washoe County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services by combining the two into the Human Services Agency; by repealing the Social Services Advisory Board, adding and revising various definitions, and all other matters properly relating thereto; and set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance for an anticipated second reading of July 11, 2017.

BACKGROUND

Over the last several years the County has worked to develop recommendations regarding the feasibility of integrating the departments of Social Services, Senior Services, and Public Guardian. In 2012 the Departments of Social Services, Senior Services, and the Public Guardian established a leadership team consisting of department heads and lead staff. Subcommittees were developed in the areas of Centralized Data, Administration, Centralized Application, Centralized Intake, and Case Management/Paraprofessional Staffing. During the feasibility study process the County continued to provide mandated services and shifts in programming to meet the ongoing needs of the indigent population. Pursuant to NRS 428.010, this mandate crosses the human services continuum to include the child, adult and senior populations. With seniors as the fastest growing population in, Washoe County, combining the Social and Senior Services Department into the Human Services Agency will allow for centralized funding of indigent and other programs and the associated administrative support required in areas such as case management, nursing home diversion, health care assistance, and overall financial administration.

In late 2013, after an extensive review of existing programming, staff recommended and the Board approved the initial phase focus on the integration of Social Services and Senior Services to create a Washoe County Human Services Agency to enhance existing

programming.

FISCAL IMPACT

Integrating the departments of Social and Senior Services into the Human Services Agency will expand the use of available federal, state and local funding and allow for cost savings associated with centralized administrative services.

RECOMMENDATION

The department recommends the Board of County Commissioners hold the Public Hearing for a second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 45 by revising provisions relating to the Washoe County Departments of Social Services and Senior Services by combining the two into the Human Services Agency; by repealing the Social Services Advisory Board, adding and revising various definitions, and all other matters properly relating thereto.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be: “Move to hold the Public Hearing for a second reading and adopt Ordinance Number (*insert ordinance number as provided by the County Clerk*) and to set the effective date as established by Nevada Revised Statutes.”