



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 11, 2020

DATE: Wednesday, February 05, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mary Herzik, Family Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court
775-328-3299, Mary.Herzik@washoecourts.us

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

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant award of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactive from January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 for the Family Peace Center; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Second Judicial District Court has been awarded \$20,000 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. As 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 are key reasons supervised visitation programs are needed. This grant contributes to 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 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.

The reason for requesting acknowledgement of this grant award, retroactively, is because the Court did not receive notice of the award until recently.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

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

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.

The Board of County Commissioners has acknowledged three Lee F. Del Grande Foundation grant awards on behalf of the Second Judicial District Court in support of the Family Peace Center since 2012.

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 five

days a week. Although the space is cramped, inadequate, and does not meet best practices, it is imperative the District Court continue to provide these needed services to the community.

The Family Peace Center operates 5 days per week:

- Monday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 6:00 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.

The reason for requesting acknowledgement of this grant award, retroactively, is due to the Court waiting to receive grant funds following notice of the award.

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: *January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020*

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 accept this grant award, the Second Judicial District Court adopted budget will be increased by \$20,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO# 11676	484195	\$20,000
IO# 11676	701130	\$20,000

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge a grant award of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactive January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 for the Family Peace Center; 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 award of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactive January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 for the Family Peace Center; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments.