

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE 1/24/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cindy Marie Absey 781-5821	
(4) SUBJECT Request to Approve Recurring Annual Contracts (Clerk's File) between the County and the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for Disbursement of County Domestic Violence Program Special Fund Monies and Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account Monies.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division recommends that the Board approve and direct the Chair to sign annual contracts to disburse Domestic Violence Program Special Fund monies and funds from the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account with the following: 1) the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo for a grant of \$18,893; and 2) the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for a grant in the amount of \$18,893.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Domestic Violence Program Special Fund and Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$37,786.00 (\$18,893 per shelter)	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$37,786.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)  SLO Shelter: 0019001106; NC Shelter: 00190001107		(14) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP  N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT?  No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: Feb. 1, 2011 and annual	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW  Geoff O'Quest			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney / Cindy Marie Absey 781-5821

DATE: 1/24/2012

SUBJECT: Request to Approve Recurring Annual Contracts (Clerk's File) between the County and the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for Disbursement of County Domestic Violence Program Special Fund Monies and Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account Monies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division recommends that the Board approve and direct the Chair to sign annual contracts to disburse Domestic Violence Program Special Fund monies and funds from the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account with the following: 1) the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo for a grant of \$18,893; and 2) the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for a grant in the amount of \$18,893.

## **DISCUSSION**

The County sets aside \$23 from each marriage license fee issued for the purpose of funding domestic violence programs. Historically, two agencies have applied for and received funds: the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center. Both agencies are eligible to receive these funds based on 2007 criteria set forth in the State Welfare and Institutions Code as amended by the passage of AB 2084 which restricts this funding to "domestic violence shelter-based programs".

In addition to the trust account generated from marriage license fees, fines collected from defendants convicted of domestic violence pursuant to P.C. 1203.097(a)(11)(A) and designated for battered women's shelters, are also available for disbursement. As both shelters provide similar services, we have recommended that the County divide the available funding equally.

After the deduction of a 5% administrative fee, the combined total of both trust accounts budgeted by the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division and available for disbursement is \$37,786 or \$18,893 per shelter. As with prior years, the County's District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division has administered the contracts and disbursed the funds through the department's budget with no impact to the General Fund.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

Both women shelter programs and a number of community public and non-profit agencies and groups are members of the County's Domestic Violence Task Force and their representatives participate on the Task Force on a bi-monthly basis.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

All funds recommended for distribution are generated through the Domestic Violence Shelter Based Programs Act of 2006

and the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account. As with prior years, the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division retains a 5% administrative fee from the accumulated funds to help cover the costs of preparing and processing the contracts. After the deduction of the administrative fee, the funds available for distribution equal \$37,786 or \$18,893 per shelter. This action will disburse \$18,893 to the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and \$18,893 to the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center. These disbursements are a decrease over last year's disbursements of \$23,999 per shelter, which was, in turn, a decrease from the 2009 funding level of \$27,146.

## **RESULTS**

As intended by law, disbursement of these funds will augment the local women's shelters' budgets and provide additional funding for shelter-based emergency and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children. For FY 2009-10, the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center's two 24-hour shelter locations provided 5,109 days of shelter and 15,327 meals for 110 clients, including children and teens. During FY 2009-10, the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County (WSP) provided 2,580 shelter nights and 7,740 meals to a total of 93 individuals. Both shelters reported an increase over last year's figures for emergency shelter. The WSP also housed 50 individuals in their transitional housing units for a total of 1,429 "shelter nights" during this same period. In addition to the shelter services, both shelter programs offer crisis counseling, individual and group counseling, restraining order assistance, case management, information and referrals, and outreach services to survivors of domestic violence.

The disbursement of these funds to our County's two women shelters supports the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division's goal to "reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members and the community" by providing augmented funding for these two essential referral agencies in our community. The ongoing availability of domestic violence shelter services contributes to the Victim/Witness performance measure "percentage of new crime victims on cases filed by the District Attorney who are assisted by Victim/Witness within 8 working days" through the hundreds of cross-referrals between the Victim/Witness Center and the shelters. Last fiscal year, the Victim/Witness Center assisted over 3,900 victims of crime, and, of those, 29% were victims of domestic violence and domestic-violence related crimes. Referrals between the Victim/Witness Assistance Center and the two women shelter programs link victims with services that reduce their confusion and frustration with the criminal justice system and enhance the domestic violence victim's ability to reclaim and reorganize their lives after crime.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

(1) Clerk's File Statement for:

- Domestic Violence Shelter Contract (WSP-SLO)
- WSP-SLO Application and Domestic Violence Shelter Contract (NCWS) and NCWS Application