

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
June 17, 2008

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Human Assistance

Subject: Report Back On Impacts Of Proposed DHA Reductions On Community-Based Organizations

Contact: Bruce Wagstaff, Director, 875-3611

BACKGROUND

The Board has requested information regarding the impacts of proposed reductions to Department of Human Assistance (DHA) contracts and what the contract agencies might do with partial or full restorations. These agencies include:

- Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE)
- South County Services
- Community Services Planning Council (CSPC) - 2-1-1 System

DISCUSSION

WEAVE

The Department has three contracts with WEAVE.

Domestic Violence Trust Fund – Under authority granted by the State, Sacramento County includes a \$23 fee on marriage licenses for a Domestic Violence Trust Fund. DHA is the pass-through entity for these funds to WEAVE (approximately \$142,000), to be used for shelter-based programs. There are no recommended changes to this funding.

Rape Crisis Services – This contract is for a total of \$189,237. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency provides \$134,561 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to this contract. The remaining is \$54,676 in General Funds, which is recommended for deletion in the Proposed Recommended Budget. The General Fund portion of the contract is supplemental to the CDBG funds, rather than a match, so the reduction of the General Fund amount would not endanger the CDBG funding. Between July 1, 2007, and April 30, 2008, WEAVE provided 2,447 service units under this contract, including crisis line and intervention services, resources, referrals, and advocacy.

General Support – The County provides \$483,255 in General Fund dollars to WEAVE for a variety of services which would be eliminated with the reduction of this funding:

- Shelter for up to 400 clients per year
- Temporary housing and food facilities for families to prepare separate meals or provide meals
- On-site education for children at the Safe House

- Psychological support and counseling
- A Domestic Violence center that assists victims of domestic violence who have not yet made the decision to leave their home or who do not require shelter
- Referral services of up to 1,000 CalWORKs clients to other community-based services
- Emergency food from community sources and clothing.

Prior to Fiscal Year 2006-07, the Department allocated available \$483,255 in TANF incentive funds to WEAVE for shelter and related domestic violence services. These State funds were part of the TANF block grant funds to enhance counties' Welfare-To-Work efforts. After Fiscal Year 2006-07, those funds were no longer available. At that time, the Board of Supervisors appropriated the same amount in General Funds to DHA to maintain WEAVE's level of funding.

The Department has discussed with WEAVE potential levels of restoration that could reduce the service reductions that the total loss of funding would create. At the time of the submittal of this report back, WEAVE had not specified which services could be provided with partial restoration of funding.

South County Services

South County Services (SCC) is an established provider with a long history of multi-faceted, collaborative service provision. The Department contracts with SCC to provide important services to low-income families, many of whom are DHA clients, in the Galt, Delta, and south County communities.

SCC has provided information on additional services they could provide with a \$75,000 restoration of the \$150,000 proposed reduction. These include:

- Emergency services (food, clothing, shelter, and transportation) for 1,000 more individuals
- 125 more gas vouchers or bus passes for individuals needing to access services in areas north of where they live
- Phone referrals and assistance for 1,250 more individuals and families (for such things as Social Security applications, Employment Development Department applications, transportation needs, health, legal and housing issues, and public assistance benefit applications)
- Interpreter/translator services for human services and emergency services not provided by DHA for 600 individuals per year.
- Six hours open for business Monday through Friday (rather than closing)

Services that would still be cut with a \$75,000 reduction include:

- Reduction in emergency services – 1,000 individuals not served
- Reduction in phone referrals and assistance – 1,250 not served

- Elimination of 120 cooking, nutrition, and craft classes
- Elimination of coordination and translations services for community programs targeting low income families (e.g., Toys for Tots)
- Hours for executive and support staff
- Closing of SCC office for walk-in assistance.

CSPC

CSPC is the designated operating agency for 2-1-1, a central call center that provides free 24 hour local resources and referral information to the public that replaced InfoLine Sacramento (also operated by CSPC). 2-1-1 is also a central information resource for the community in times of disaster and recovery. Since the transition from InfoLine Sacramento to 2-1-1, calls have increased from an average of 3,350 per month in 2007 - when CSPC operated InfoLine Sacramento during weekday work hours - to more than 4,700 in May 2008.

There are two components of the General Fund budget appropriation in DHA for 2-1-1:

- In 2007, the Board approved \$50,000 in General Funds to pay for one-time costs to establish 2-1-1. This phase of 2-1-1 is now complete, although the General Fund allocation remains in DHA's budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09
- In December 2007, the Board approved a contract with CSPC to provide 2-1-1 services, with DHA paying \$99,935 for ongoing operational costs from its Fiscal Year 2007-08 General Fund allocation. The Department has explored whether it would be appropriate to use CalWORKs funding to pay for 2-1-1, on the premise that many individuals seeking social service information would be CalWORKs recipients. The Department determined that because the 2-1-1 system serves a broad range of callers, not specifically CalWORKs clients in their pursuit of employment, the 2-1-1 system could not be funded through the CalWORKs allocation. The Department is recommending the deletion of this \$99,935.

The Department has discussed with CSPC using the original one-time \$50,000 appropriation that is still in the budget to offset the recommended reduction of \$99,935. Redesignating this amount for ongoing operations would leave CSPC short of its operational needs by \$49,935. The loss of this amount of funding would result in the loss of one line position, affecting 9,000 callers. If the Board opted not to redesignate the \$50,000 to operations and reduced the General Fund allocation to DHA accordingly, a second CSPC position would be affected.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
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BW:PL