

WALK ON #2

Lee County Board Of County Commissioners

Agenda Item Summary

Blue Sheet No. 200 41240

September 24, 2004

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve a grant application for a Pre-Trial Diversion Outreach program to be administered by the Ruth Cooper Center in partnership with the Lee County Department of Human Services.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: To notify the Board of the grant application and obtain official signature.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Allows Human Services to apply for a \$5,000 grant through the National Association of Counties Small Grant Program for Counties to provide a Pre-Trial Diversion Outreach program to divert persons with a serious mental illness from unnecessary institutionalization and/or criminalization.

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:

COMMISSION DISTRICT #

Countywide CW

3. MEETING DATE:

09-28-2004

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE
- APPEALS
- PUBLIC
- WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:

(Specify)

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER N/A
- B. DEPARTMENT Human Services
- C. DIVISION N/A

BY: Ann Amall

Ann Amall
9/24/04

7. BACKGROUND:

The Lee County Department of Human Services in partnership with the Ruth Cooper Center is applying for a \$5,000 grant from the National Association of Counties Small Grant Program for Counties to provide a Pre-Trial Diversion Outreach program to divert persons with a serious mental illness from unnecessary institutionalization and/or criminalization.

The two primary objectives of the program will be to 1.) expedite resolution of legal issues and 2.) reduce recidivism. This program will be an expansion of the current diversion program administered by the Ruth Cooper Center.

Attachment: Grant Application

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Recommend Approval

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
CWC 9/24/04	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/24/04 <i>[Signature]</i>	OA RK 9/27	OM 9/27/04	Risk 9/27/04	GC 9/24/04	9/27/04 <i>[Signature]</i>

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty

Date: 9/24/04

Time: 4:00

Forwarded To:
Budget
9/24/04 4:15pm

RECEIVED BY
COUNTY ADMIN:

9/24/04

4:30 pm SCW

COUNTY ADMIN
FORWARDED TO: JK

9/27/04

9 am



MEMORANDUM FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION

2004 SEP 24 PM 4:00

RECEIVED BY
LEE CO. ATTORNEY

Date: September 24, 2004

To: All Concerned Departments

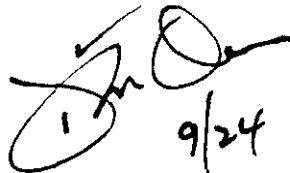
From: Ann Arnall 
Deputy Director

Re: Walk-on Blue Sheet (Number 2004/240)

The attached blue sheet number 2004/240 needs to be walked on to the September 28, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Human Services just recently learned of the grant opportunity and the signed application is due to the National Association of Counties by September 30, 2004. The grant document must be signed and returned to Human Services no later than the morning of September 29, 2004 for mailing. Please contact Human Services at 652-7930 when the documents are ready to be picked up.

Thank you.


9/24

Application Information:

- 1.) Lee County Board of County Commissioners
- 2.) P.O. Box 398 (2115 Second Street)
- 3.) Fort Myers, Florida 33902
- 4.) 497,022

Project Contacts :

Project Coordinator

- 1.) Ann Arnall
- 2.) Deputy Director
- 3.) Human Services
- 4.) 239-652-7930
- 5.) 239-652-7960
- 6.) amallam@leegov.com
- 7.) <http://dhs.lee-county.com/default.asp>

Financial Coordinator


Barbara Hollis
Fiscal Manager
Human Services
239-652-7930
239-652-7960
hollisbj@leegov.com

Project Information:

- 1.) Diversion Program: Pre-Trial Outreach
- 2.) Fort Myers, Florida, Lee County
- 3.) November 11, 2004
- 4.)

a.) Project Coordinator

Ann M. Arnall



September 28, 2004

b.) County Commissioner Chairman

John Albion

September 28, 2004

Proposal Narrative

Research indicates that prolonged incarceration and increased mental health symptoms are directly correlated; and in-patient care (jails, hospitals) is more costly than community-based treatment. Moreover, an increasing number of individuals with mental health treatment needs are identified during interactions with the criminal justice system. This growing problem is a national trend. One key in addressing this crisis is to identify people with a mental illness as early as possible in the criminal justice system. Once identified, the Ruth Cooper Center's Diversion Program offers the Court viable alternatives to institutionalization and/or criminalization with careful consideration of mental health law (Florida Statutes 394 and 916), existing resources, the mental health needs of individuals served, and the safety of the community.

Lee County, Florida is a rapidly growing community with a significant number of transient individuals. In January 2004 the number of homeless individuals at any given point in time was estimated to be 2,012. Lee County Jail is reporting a significant increase in the number of individuals incarcerated who have a mental illness. In response to these demographics, the local community mental health center, the Ruth Cooper Center, has developed a Diversion Program. The Diversion Program is intended to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses (including persons with co-occurring substance use disorders) from unnecessary institutionalization and/or criminalization. Specifically, this program is designed to serve individuals with criminal charges in which a severe and persistent mental illness may complicate the legal proceedings. The two primary objectives of the Diversion Program are: 1) **to expedite resolution of legal issues** and 2)

to reduce recidivism. In essence, the Diversion Program serves as a bridge between the legal and mental health systems.

Currently, the primary activities of the Diversion Program are to 1) monitor and advocate for persons with felony charges who are at risk or have been adjudicated **Incompetent to Proceed (ITP)** with trial and/or **Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)** pursuant to Florida Statute 916, 2) provide community-based supports, such as case management, basic living skills training, and social skills training to individuals in the community, 3) train individuals around legal **competency** issues pursuant to Florida Statute 916 (offered to individuals in jail and in the community, depending on the person's situation), and 4) identify diversion opportunities and make subsequent recommendations to the Courts, advocating for the least restrictive alternatives when appropriate.

The vision of this rapidly expanding program is to broaden the scope in order to creatively divert individuals from jail (and forensic state hospitals) at all levels of the legal system. For example, in collaboration with Lee County Human Services, Ruth Cooper Center has been a key player in the efforts to introduce Crisis Intervention Teams to our local law enforcement.

To enhance current diversion efforts, the Lee County Department of Human Services in partnership with the Ruth Cooper Center will implement a **Pre-Trial Outreach Project** as an adjunct to the existing Diversion Program. As referenced by the National Coalition for the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System (1990), a pre-trial diversion project in Multnomah County, Oregon, proved to accelerate diversions of mentally ill arrestees to some form of treatment or other social service. Additionally,

Henry Steadman of the TAPA Center for Jail Diversion identifies pre-trial services as a key point in which diversion opportunities can occur. Based on evidence such as the aforementioned references, pre-trial services is a significant component within a diversion plan and an arena that the Ruth Cooper Center Diversion Program has not yet penetrated.

Phase one (or the micro-focus) of the Pre-Trial Outreach Project will involve direct activities including education and training of Pre-Trial Services' employees, building relationships with key people within Pre-Trial Services, assisting Pre-Trial Services in developing discharge plans for individuals identified as having a mental illness who may be diverted, screening individuals as appropriate for existing Diversion Program services such as Competency Training. Phase two (or the macro-focus) of the project will include ongoing data collection and program evaluation, reporting findings to the Forensic Mental Health Advisory Council, and, based on findings, developing a long-range plan in collaboration with the Council.

Measurable goals of the Pre-Trial Outreach Project include:

- Demonstrate a minimum of two (2) diversions per month
- Incorporate Pre-Trial Services representation into the Forensic Mental Health Advisory Council
- Ongoing, informal training of Pre-Trial Services personnel (documented by liaison) related to mental health services and diversion concepts/opportunities

- Completion of formal training for Pre-Trial Services personnel (minimum of 2 formal trainings over course of grant year) related to mental health services and diversion concepts/opportunities
- In collaboration with the Forensic Mental Health Council, develop a long-range diversion plan, including plans for sustaining existing diversion efforts and expansion of diversion activities.

The Diversion Program staff coordinates and leads a monthly stakeholder group, the **Forensic Mental Health Advisory Council**. This group includes representatives from Lee County Human Services, Florida Department of Children and Families- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Office, Mental Health Court, Office of the Public Defender, the State Attorney Office, the Lee County Sheriff Department, Lee County Jail's mental health/medical provider group, and the mental health consumer population. Formed in February 2003, the Forensic Mental Health Advisory Council is an established group that has been instrumental in bridging the mental health and criminal justice systems. This group continues to work together toward a common goal of diverting individuals with mental illnesses out of jails without jeopardizing the safety of the community. This project is intended to provide the Forensic Mental Health Advisory Council evidence of need and data for planning in order to leverage additional support and funding for furthering diversion efforts.

Activities performed through this grant will be a preliminary approach to another innovative diversion opportunity. By initiating a relationship with Pre-Trial Services, potential for increased diversions will be identified and acted upon. Continuation of these successful efforts will continue through existing resources and through

collaboration among stakeholders. Given the fact that Lee County has an existing, strong Advisory Council focusing on jail diversion, it is likely that additional resources will be leveraged given further data afforded by this seed grant.

Project evaluation will include monitoring of measurable goals as defined above, identification of barriers to diversion, measurement of number of days incarcerated for persons with a mental illness, measurement of recidivism, satisfaction surveys from Pre-Trial Services personnel, and feedback from stakeholders.

Pre-Trial Outreach Project

Annual Budget

Revenue 5000

Expenses

Salaries 2728

Fringe Benefits 736

Travel 150

Total Direct Expense 3614

Total Allocated Overhead 1391

Total Expense 5005

Net Profit/(Loss)	(5)
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