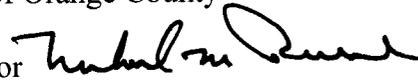


**DATE:** February 17, 2010

**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County

**FROM:** Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director



**SUBJECT:** Response to Economic Downturn – Cold Weather Armory Redirection Program

### **SUMMARY**

Mercy House, the operator of the cold weather Armory, is more than half way through its season and has already enrolled more families in the Redirection Program than was served in the entire season last year. The economic crisis and unusually cold and wet winter has created an increased demand for services. If demand continues at the current rate, the program will serve more than 200 families; a 63% increase from last year. Commission staff recommends increasing the maximum obligation by an additional \$360,000 to respond to this immediate need. The additional funding will ensure that all families with children ages 0-5 will receive shelter and staff support to find other housing and access to basic services such as health services and child care.

### **STATUS OF REDIRECTION PROGRAM:**

In addition to the increased number of families being served, the Redirection Program is also experiencing longer average stays in motels for these families (average length of stay this season is 29 days). There are many contributing factors including, an increasingly impacted county shelter system, and more families with significant barriers to housing and employment. As of February 18, 2010, Mercy House has served a total of 186 families. This includes 34 families with children over the age of 5 funded by United Way and 152 Commission eligible families. The 152 Commission eligible families that have been served included;

- 81 families are currently enrolled,
- 71 families have exited,
  - 46 families transitioned to a shelter programs, permanent housing (including moving in with family or friends), or a treatment facility,
  - 10 families left the program without notice (and have not returned to the Armory),
  - 13 families were removed from the program for one of the following reasons; Child Protective Services removed children, they were arrested, and/or non-compliance with program requirements,
  - 1 family has chosen to stay in their RV and 1 homeless single mother stayed for as long as she had visitation with her child.

While the average length of motel stay for the families has been longer this season, the program has benefited from increased participation of shelter providers. The following shelters have accepted families from the Redirection Program; Anaheim Interfaith, Fullerton Interfaith, the

Regina House/Mercy House, Collette's Children's Home, HIS House, Strong Families/Orange County Rescue Mission, N 2 Recovery, and Illumination Foundation.

### **IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM FUNDING IMPACTS**

The increased funding to address the surge in demand for the Redirection Program will be allocated from the new shelter development fund in the FY09/10 Budget. Due to the lack of eligible shelter projects ready to move forward at this time, the funding allocation will have minimal impacts on our partnership with HomeAid Orange County and the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse.

In the long-run, the current trend in funding for the Redirection Program is not sustainable without significantly impacting shelter development or other Commission sponsored programs. We will be working with other local funders to see if we can address the emergency housing needs while we also join in the implementation efforts for the recently adopted 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in Orange County. We will provide a progress report at your May meeting.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY**

The proposed project has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is designed to further the Strong Families/Homeless Prevention goal. Funding for this item is included in the FY 2009/10 Budget within the Strong Families Homeless Prevention budget category (Funding will come from the set aside for new shelter development - reducing the amount available to \$1.24 million).

### **PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

- July 2, 2008- Commission funding awarded \$175,000 for 2009 season, increased to \$302,000 at March, 2009 Commission meeting.
- September 7, 2009- Commission funding awarded \$400,000 for 2010 season.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt resolution (Attachment #1) authorizing Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate an amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House to add an amount not to exceed \$360,000 for a new total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$760,000 for the Armory Redirection Program.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution for Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House

**Contact:** Kim Goll

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_-10-C&FC**

**March 3, 2010**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE, AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FCI-H2-13 WITH MERCY HOUSE TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the "Act") implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County ("Commission"); and

**WHEREAS**, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County's children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, On September 2, 2009 Commission authorized the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to negotiate and enter into Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House Transitional Living Center to provide Armory Redirection Program Services.

**WHEREAS**, the Commission now desires to enter into an Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House Transitional Living Center, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor," to add an additional \$360,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$760,000 as specified in the March 3, 2010 staff report for this Agenda Item, and

**WHEREAS**, the Contractor desires to enter into the Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan on the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable Amendment to Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, Commission has reviewed the staff report relating to the Scope of Services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendment to Agreement is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1** Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

**Section 2** Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate the terms, conditions and final form of an Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House Transitional Living Center to add an additional \$360,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$760,000 consistent with the March 3, 2010 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

**Section 3** The approval by the Executive Director or designee of the final Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such Amendment to Agreement by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

**Section 4** Commission hereby approves the Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with the Contractor, to add an additional \$360,000 for a total Maximum Payment Obligation of \$760,000 as specified in the March 3, 2010 staff report for this Agenda Item.

**Section 5** The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 on behalf of the Commission.

**Section 6** A copy of the final Amendment to Agreement when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. The final executed Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

**Section 7** In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director, or designee, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Amendments to Agreement(s), (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement(s), and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement(s) in the furtherance thereof.

**Section 8** The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County on March 3, 2010 to wit:

AYES: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: Commissioner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

EXCUSED: Commissioner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE    )

I, DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission of Orange County, California, hereby certify that a copy of this document has been delivered to the Chair of the Commission and that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand and seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARLENE J. BLOOM**  
Clerk of the Commission, Children and Families Commission of  
Orange County, County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: \_\_-10-C&FC

Agenda Date: March 3, 2010

Item No. \_\_\_\_



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the

DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION**

(Attach copy of final executed Amendment to Agreement FCI-H2-13 with Mercy House Transitional Living Center)