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**Agenda Item No. 6
March 4, 2009 Meeting**

CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: February 21, 2009

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Ruane", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: Expansion of Transitional and Emergency Shelter Programs

SUMMARY:

Over the last seven months, the Commission has focused on providing funding to the county's cold weather armory and transitional shelter system to handle increased service demands. While these investments have been critical to ensuring that shelters have been able to increase their capacity, there is still a significant need for emergency and transitional housing services to families with children ages 0-5. Staff is recommending increased funding to Mercy House, the cold weather armory provider, to address the significant increase in families with 0-5 children seeking shelter and funding to develop a new transitional program with Families Forward.

Mercy House

In July 2008, your Commission approved \$175,000 to Mercy House, the emergency cold-weather-shelter to provide enhanced services to families with children ages 0-5 ensuring that young children are not exposed to emergency shelter situations. Specifically, the funding will be used to provide alternative shelter, food, clothing, other essentials, and staffing to assist these families with transitioning to more permanent housing.

In February 2009, your Commission received an update on this program from the Executive Director of Mercy House. Included in the presentation was a description of services provided to the 72 families currently in the program as well as the challenges being experienced by the provider. Because this program is the first of its kind, estimating the number of families that would seek services and the length of stays that would be needed until the families could be transitioned into permanent or transitional housing was unknown at the time the agreement was negotiated.

The budget for the program was initially based on an estimate of 50 families staying 3 weeks. These estimates have proven to significantly underestimated what the actual program is experiencing. To date, the program has served 72 families, with an increase of families accessing the armory in the recent weeks and longer stays for each family until they are able to transition to more stable housing.

At this time, staff is requesting an additional \$127,000 be made available to Mercy House. This funding would allow Mercy House to continue to provide stable housing and case management services to the 65 families already enrolled as well as ensuring that the program remains able to

enroll new families throughout term of the cold weather armory operation (scheduled to close April 30, 2009).

Families Forward

In October 2008, the Commission set aside \$500,000 for Families Forward to support the development of transitional housing. Families Forward had successfully submitted a proposal to the city of Lake Forest for \$500,000 of funding to purchase and rehabilitate additional units and the Commission's investment was intended to match the investment made by the city of Lake Forest.

As negotiations between Families Forward and the city continue, it appears that the Commission's investment in the project would be limited to providing program support such as early education and case management. Due to the limited scope of Commission dollars in Lake Forest, there is the potential for expanding services to additional families in need. Families Forward has negotiated a subsidized rate for up to 10 apartment units with the Irvine Company's Apartment Communities (IAC). These units would be used to house families that, based on intake evaluations, have the ability and desire to maintain self sufficiency.

Families Forward's arrangement with IAC allows for families to enter into a lease directly with IAC. Each lease will have an addendum that specifies that the family must be enrolled in the Families Forward "Re-Housing Program" in order to qualify for the lease subsidy and waiver of rental deposit. Initially the families will pay a small portion of the rent (estimated at \$300) and the balance will be split between IAC and Families Forward. As families become increasingly self-sufficient, they will increase the amount they pay for rent. Ultimately each family should be able to transition into paying the entire rent of the affordable unit within a year. During the program term the families will be provided with intensive case management services and access to other support services.

Staff recommends entering into an agreement with Families Forward in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to provide case management and support services to families in both Lake Forest and Re-Housing Program (IAC) for a term of three years.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed projects have been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and are designed to further the Strong Families/Homeless Prevention goal, among others. Funding for this item is recommended to come from the allocation to the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse. In July 2008, the Commission set aside a total of \$10,000,000 (\$2,000,000 annually). Because, the contract has taken longer than expected to negotiate staff recommends using \$627,000 from the first years allocation. The amount for these agreements is included in the FY 2008/09 Budget within the Strong Families Homeless Prevention budget category.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

1. July 2008- Funding of \$175,000 approved for Mercy House to ensure that no 0-5 children sleep at the Armory
2. October 2008- Funding set aside for Families Forward to support development of transitional housing in partnership with Lake Forest.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing Executive Director or his designee and Commission Counsel to amend agreement number FCI-H1-13 with Mercy House adding an amount not to exceed \$127,000 for a new Maximum Obligation of \$302,000 without extending the term of the Agreement to provide additional alternative shelter, food, clothing, and other essential services and supplies.
2. Adopt Resolution (Attachment 2) authorizing the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate Agreement FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward for a three-year term beginning on or about April 1, 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to provide transitional housing services to families with children ages 0-5.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution for Amendment to Agreement FCI-H1-13 with Mercy House
2. Resolution for Agreement FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward

Contact: Kim Goll

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-09-C&FC

March 4, 2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AND MERCY HOUSE TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTERS AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

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 July 2, 2008 the Commission authorized Agreement FCI-H1-13 with the Mercy House Transitional Living Center, to provide enhanced shelter services to families promoting the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate the terms and final form of an Amendment to Agreement FCI-H1-13 with the Mercy House Transitional Living Center, to add an amount not to exceed \$127,000 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$302,000 under the same general terms and conditions of the original agreement; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the staff report for the March 4, 2009 Commission meeting relating to the scope of services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendment is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Commission Chair and Commission Clerk to enter into an Amendment to Agreement No. FCI-H1-13 to add \$127,000 for a revised total maximum payment obligation of \$302,000 under the same general terms and conditions of the original agreement

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 authorizes the Executive Director and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate the final form of an Amendment to Agreement FCI-H1-13 with the Mercy House Transitional Living Center to add an amount not to exceed \$127,000 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$302,000, provide additional services consistent with the staff report for the March 4, 2009 Commission meeting and the scope of services referenced therein;

Section 3 Commission hereby approves the Amendment to Agreement FCI-H1-13 with the Mercy House Transitional Living Center, to add an amount not to exceed \$127,000 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$302,000, to provide additional services in support of the Act and the Strategic Plan as specified in the March 4, 2009 staff report.

Section 4 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the Amendment on behalf of the Commission.

Section 5 A copy of the final Amendment to Agreement FCI-H1-13 with the Mercy House Transitional Living Center, 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 shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 6 In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director (or his designee) is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Amendment, (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement, and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement in the furtherance thereof.

Section 7 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 4, 2009 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: __-09--C&FC

Agenda Date: March 4, 2009

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-H1-13 with the Mercy House
Transitional Living Center)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-09-C&FC

March 4, 2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE, AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT NO. FCI-H1-14 WITH FAMILIES FORWARD; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

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, the Executive Director and Commission Counsel have prepared a standard Master Agreement for Services ("Master Agreement"), which was approved by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to authorize the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate Agreement No. FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for a three year term beginning on or about July 1, 2009 to provide transitional housing services to families with children ages 0-5 as specified in the March 4, 2009 staff report for this Agenda Item; 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 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 Agreement FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for a three year term beginning on or about April 1, 2009 to provide transitional housing services to families with children ages 0-5 consistent with the March 4, 2009 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The form of Agreement FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward shall be substantially similar to the form of the standard Master Agreement, subject to minor, non-substantive revisions as reviewed and approved by the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel. The approval by the Executive Director of Agreement FCI-H1-14 shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of the Agreement by the Commission Chair to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves Agreement No. FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward to provide transitional housing services to families with children ages 0-5 as specified in the March 4, 2009 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, Agreement FCI-H1-14 on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of the final Agreement FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward, 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 Agreement 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 his designee) is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Service Agreement, (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement, and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement 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 4, 2009 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: __-09-C&FC

Agenda Date: March 4, 2009

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 Agreement No. FCI-H1-14 with Families Forward)