County of Santa Cruz

HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

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CECILIA ESPINOLA, ADMINISTRATOR

August 9, 2000

Agenda: August 22, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

REPORT ON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT AND FACILITIES FUNDS

Dear Members of the Board:

On June 22, 2000 your Board considered and approved supplemental funding to provide technological enhancements and facility improvements for community programs. $225,000 was set aside to purchase computer hardware as a local match for the Human Care Alliance sponsored grant application, and $70,000 was set aside to consider feasibility of co-location of community programs and common site acquisition. This letter provides a status report on HRA's progress in determining the methodology for distribution of these funds consistent with your Board's direction.

Technology: HRA staff is coordinating with Human Care Alliance (HCA) and the consultant for the two-year Technology Learning Community (TLC) Project, which will enhance the information technology capacity of community programs and develop innovative collaborative solutions to health and human service needs in the community. The TLC project has now secured funding commitments from the Packard Foundation ($200,000), the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County ($35,000), and has been awarded a California Endowment grant of $450,000. With your Board's local match, total support for this project is nearly $900,000.

HCA will work with HandsNet, a Bay Area organization which supports the technological capacity of non-profit agencies throughout the country, to administer the TLC Project. The project will proceed in three phases. First, HandsNet will conduct a needs assessment of the technical capacity of the member organizations of HCA, and will determine minimal hardware requirements for online needs and readiness. Second, HandsNet will provide training to the Executive Directors of the HCA member agencies, to expand their knowledge of intemet concepts and potential. Finally, HandsNet will provide hands-on training to the employees and volunteers in the HCA agencies.

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The hardware needs assessment is scheduled to be completed by the end of October, 2000. Once the needs assessment is completed, HRA will return to your Board for authorization to contract with a fiscal agent (to be determined) for the purchase and distribution of technological hardware among the participating County funded Community Programs, and for related connectivity costs. HRA staff is in the process of defining criteria and conditions for distribution of the technology enhancement funds.

Facilities: Your board also approved a set aside of $70,000 for Community Programs facility improvements and a feasibility study to strengthen plant operations. At this time, HRA staff is developing an inventory of existing facilities and their needs, and will define the focus and scope of the proposed feasibility study. Consideration will be given to enhancing the co-location of services, wherever feasible and appropriate, and to building existing service integration efforts, such as the Family Resource Centers and the One-Stop Career Centers. Staff is also in the process of identifying potential consultants to conduct the feasibility study.
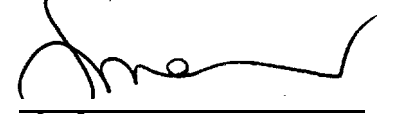
IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report, and direct the HRA Administrator to return to your Board on December 12, 2000, with recommendations for the distribution of the $225,000 set aside for technology enhancement, and $70,000 for facility improvements for Community Programs.

Very truly yours,

CECILIA ESPINOLA
Administrator

CE/GM/THP (n::\commprog\bdcp-tec.wpd)

RECOMMENDED:

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
         Human Care Alliance

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