



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



DATE: September 21, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 28, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sheriff Don Horsley
SUBJECT: Agreement with the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for prevocational and remedial education programs within the County's detention facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing:

- 1) Waiver of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process; and
- 2) Execution of an Agreement with the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for prevocational and remedial education programs within the County's detention facilities, in the amount not-to-exceed \$134,344, funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund.

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

BACKGROUND:

The Inmate Welfare Committee has annually recommended that the County contract with the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for instruction, GED testing, vocational counseling, information and referral services, and follow-up services to inmates in San Mateo County's correctional facilities. Presently, the program provides instruction in basic skills improvement and GED preparation to approximately 85-100 inmates at any given time. Provision of these services is encouraged under Title XV and by the State Board of Corrections during their annual jail inspection.

The Inmate Welfare Fund consists of monies held and expended for the welfare of inmates. It is unique for two reasons: inmates and their families provide income for the fund through commissary sales and telephone call charges; and disbursements from the fund must be used for the benefit, welfare and education of inmates and their families, pursuant to statute.

The Inmate Education Project's principal mission is to work with inmates who have not graduated from high school by preparing them for the GED test. Services are geared toward preparing the inmates to make a successful transition to employment or occupational programs upon their release.

DISCUSSION:

The Superintendent of Schools provides educational programs in detention facilities including classes in English, Math, Social Studies, Literature/Arts, Science, and Reading. At any given time, approximately 85-100 inmates participate in programs, which operate five (5) days a week, Monday through Friday. The sentenced inmate population has steadily utilized instructional classes that concentrate on GED preparation.

In Fiscal 2003-04, the Inmate Welfare Fund committee contributed \$158,060 to the inmate education program, via contract with the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools. The proposed Agreement for Fiscal 2004-05 is for \$134,344, a decrease of \$23,716 or 15%. The Inmate Welfare Fund committee directed all contract providers to make a 15% reduction in costs and services for FY 2003-04, and again for 2004-05, in order to bring contractual services costs back in line with available funding. Due to inflation and service population growth, annual contract expenses

had been growing faster than the moderate growth in fund income, resulting in a structural imbalance that would have major service consequences if not affirmatively addressed. These reductions, while painful, have successfully brought contract provider costs back in line with fund revenues.

The County has contracted with the Superintendent of Schools for these services since 1994. The Superintendent of Schools is the lead public education agency in San Mateo County, and in that capacity the Superintendent coordinates all special educational programs such as in-custody GED course work. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the County to waive the RFP process and continue to contract with the Superintendent of Schools on the basis of being a sole source provider in the County of San Mateo.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and Agreement as to form.

VISION ALIGNMENT:

The Agreement aligns with Goal Number 4, "Residents have many educational and training opportunities beyond high school" of the Shared Vision Commitment to "Provide equal access to educational opportunity;" and Goal Number 19 "The skill level of new workers rises with improved K-12 education and training options." This Agreement contributes to these commitments by enabling inmates to increase skills which will lead to a broader range of job opportunities. As well, it will help those inmates who are parents to instill a love of learning in their children.

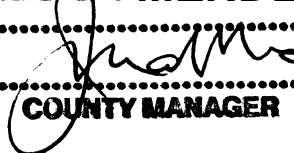
Performance Measures:

Measure	FY 2003-04 Actual	FY 2004-05 Projected
Number of Inmates taking GED tests for the first time.	152	161
Percentage of inmates who have successfully taken and passed each of the five exams required to qualify for a High School Equivalency Certificate.	12%	14%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed Agreement for the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, for a total obligation of \$134,344 will be funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund for the 2004-05 Fiscal Year. Therefore, there is no impact upon the County's General Fund.

RECOMMENDED

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COUNTY MANAGER