



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 SHATTO PLACE – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

(213) 351-5602

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Director

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April 30, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR FIVE ORDINANCE TRANSPORTATION WORKER ITEMS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) – (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve interim ordinance authority pursuant to County Code Section 6.06.020 for five (5) Transportation Workers to enable DCFS to migrate from contractors to hiring County employees. The cost of the Transportation Workers will be fully offset by a reduction in contract costs. The FY 2001-02 Adopted Budget contains sufficient funding for the Transportation Workers costs. The FY 2002-03 Proposed Budget will reflect the redirection of funding to finance the cost of the budgeted positions.
2. Authorize the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to fill the five Transportation Worker positions.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to allow DCFS to consolidate and improve the transportation of children to and from Juvenile Dependency Court appearances.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan by providing more efficient court transportation services which will aid the

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 16, 2002
Page 2

Department in meeting all five (5) of the County-wide Goals of (1) Service Excellence, (2) Workforce Excellence, (3) Organizational Effectiveness, (4) Fiscal Responsibility, and (5) Children and Families Well-being.

In addition, the actions will facilitate meeting the County Outcomes of Safety and Survival, and Social and Emotional Well-being.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Due to vacancies throughout the department, there is sufficient salary savings to cover the cost of the five Transportation Workers for the remainder of FY 2001-02. The FY 2002-03 Proposed Budget will reflect the redirection of the funding to finance the cost of the positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Children and Family Services provides transportation for foster children to and from their Juvenile Court appearances. Hearings are held at two Juvenile Dependency Courts located in Antelope Valley and Monterey Park.

Approval of the request will allow DCFS to consolidate the non-special needs court transportation services and improve the transportation services of the foster children to their Juvenile Dependency Court hearings.

DCFS currently owns and operates 17 passenger vans to transport children to/from court appearances and contracts for six additional vans and drivers through a private contractor (VanGo) for the San Fernando and Antelope Valley areas as well as MacLaren Children's Center. The current contract with VanGo will expire on March 31, 2002. Existing Transportation Workers and vans will be used to provide transportation until approval of the ordinance positions is received. Upon approval, DCFS will utilize the existing Transportation Worker eligible list to recruit for the five new positions.

A cost analysis prepared in accordance with the Auditor-Controller's fiscal manual indicated that it would be more cost effective to purchase the passenger vans and hire Transportation Workers in lieu of contracting for transportation services. However, the

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 16, 2002
Page 3

Department will still need to have transportation services outsourced for children who are wheelchair assisted as County vehicles are not equipped for wheelchair access. The analysis included the cost of contracting, as a per need basis, a limited number of occurrences where wheelchair accessible court transportation is necessary.

Since the original Prop A analysis was performed, the class specifications for the Transportation Worker have been modified to include experience supervising children who are under child protective services as substitution for college education. The positive impact of this modification of the class specification is that Transportation Workers will be well qualified to meet the children's emotional needs.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The hiring of additional Transportation Workers and purchase of additional passenger vans will allow the Department to improve the current transportation services for foster children to their Court appearances.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of the requested actions by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send one adopted copy of the Board Letter to the following:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Budget Services
425 Shatto Place, Room #203
Los Angeles CA 90020
Attn: Tito Barin, Budget Officer

2. Department of Children and Family Services
Bureau of Child Protection
425 Shatto Place, Room #300
Los Angeles CA 90020
Attn: Eric Marts, Acting Bureau Chief

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 16, 2002
Page 4

3. Department of Children and Family Services
Contract Management Services
425 Shatto Place, Room #205
Los Angeles CA 90020
Attn: Armand Montiel, Interim Manager

Respectfully submitted,

ANITA M. BOCK
Director

AMB:AM:
TB:EM:BV:rk

- c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Department of Human Resources