



PINELLAS PARK CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bob Bray

DATE: February 9, 2010

SUBJECT: COLLABORATION WITH CASA ON GRANT APPLICATION

BACKGROUND:

Representatives from CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc.) will be present to discuss their proposal to partner with the City of Pinellas Park on a grant.

Attached Backup May Be Required:

- Attorney Approval
- Purchasing Approval
- OMB Approval
- Finance Approval
- Minutes from Board or Commission
- Document required for Council action

- Workshop Agenda
- Council Agenda

Department Head Approval

City Manager Approval _____

Summary of the Safe Haven Grant Program and how it would relate to Pinellas Park

"The Safe Havens: Supervise Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program" is a 3 year grant funded program through OVW (Office of Violence against Women under the U.S. Department of Justice.) The purpose of the grant is:

- (1) to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking;
- (2) to protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic or dating violence or experiencing abduction, injury, or death during parent and child visitation exchanges;
- (3) to protect parents or caretakers who are victims of domestic and dating violence from experiencing further violence, abuse, and threats during child visitation exchanges; and
- (4) to protect children from the trauma of experiencing sexual assault or other forms of physical assault or abuse during parent and child visitation.

A governmental agency is required to be the applicant/recipient of the grant who in turns has to partner with a domestic violence related agency. The total maximum budget over the 3 years is a total of \$400,000 including \$50,000 allotted for mandatory OVW training. The first year is for planning, with a capped budget of \$50,000. The remaining two years is for program implementation.

CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc.) is a 501 © 3 organization providing service to domestic violence victims and their children in Pinellas County for the past 32 years. CASA is funded through federal, state, city, local and private funding. CASA is successfully monitored each year by its funding sources and has a clean independent annual audit. CASA has extensive grants management in terms of both financial and programmatic management. CASA has directly received previous OVW funding and has also been a recipient of the Safe Havens grant in 2004-7 through the Pinellas County Health and Human Services. CASA clearly understands the obligations of receiving federal funding and has full intent to meet all fiscal and programmatic responsibilities.

CASA brought supervised visitation services to Pinellas County and has managed the supervised visitation and monitored exchange program for the past 14 years. For the past 13 years, the program has been based in Pinellas Park, though the program serves families through all of Pinellas County. The program provides a safe environment for approximately 100 families and well over 1200 visits each year.

Funding from the Safe Havens grant will be used specifically to expand services through the existing program in terms of expanding operating hours, developing a children's orientation program with accompanying DVD, the development of a web page, and extensive staff training.

CASA, as the sub grantee of the funding will, in turn, partner with The Haven of RCS, the Sixth Judicial Court and Suncoast Mental Health Services (Help-a Child) to provide the services outlined above.

CASA would like to partner with Pinellas Park for the following reasons:

- Pinellas Park has been very supportive of CASA over the past several years.
- The Visitation Center is currently based in Pinellas Park.
- Pinellas Park provides a central location in the county for families to travel.

The benefit to Pinellas Park to be a grant applicant and recipient will be:

- To build a track history of receiving OVW funding.
- To receive partial funding for a staff person and funding for staff training.
- To be a community partner with several service agencies providing services to its residents.

The City's ongoing responsibilities for this grant would include:

- Reviewing programmatic and fiscal reports provided by CASA.
- Attending periodic training sessions as required by the Dept of Justice.
- Agree to Standard Federal Assurances and Certifications.
- Serve on CASA consulting committee.

The letter of intent is due February 24, 2010 and the full application is due March 10, 2010.