

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-3

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE April 8, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Submit an Application for the 2014 National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award for the Community Services Agency/Valley Recovery Resources Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve submission of an application for the 2014 National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award for the Community Services/Valley Recovery Resources project.
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the application on behalf of the Board of Supervisors prior to the submittal deadline of April 14, 2014.
3. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to finalize and submit the application to NACO no later than April 14, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost to apply for the 2014 NACO Achievement Award is \$150 and with the Board's approval, will be funded by existing appropriations in the Community Services Agency's Services and Support budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2014-157

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman De Martini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None


1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The National Association of Counties (NACO) is a national organization that seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. In 1970, NACO implemented the annual non-competitive Achievement Award Program to recognize county government programs that have been implemented by county staff, with only limited assistance from outside technical experts and consultants. For this year's award, NACO is seeking county programs that became operational after January 1, 2009 and must have measurable results. Awards are given in a number of program categories such as arts and historic preservation, children and youth, community and economic development, county administration, emergency management, environmental protection, health, human services, libraries, parks and recreation, transportation and volunteers.

The Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office and the Community Services Agency are requesting the Board's approval to submit an application for the 2014 National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award for the Community Services/Valley Recovery Resources project in the category of "Human Services" to highlight the partnership between the County and leaders in the business and faith community in order to preserve clean and sober living facilities.

### **Community Services Agency/Valley Recovery Resources**

In late 2010 and early 2011, a group of concerned citizens from the business and faith Community approached County Board of Supervisor William O'Brien to strategize how to prevent the closure of clean and sober living facilities for women and children who were involved in the Child Protective Services System. This group of citizens proposed a unique partnership with the County. They offered to form a non-profit (now known as Valley Recovery Resources) and donate the local match to the County so that State and Federal dollars could be matched to fund Clean and Sober Living Services.

On May 10, 2011, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Community Services Agency to enter into an emergency contract with Valley Recovery Resources to provide Clean and Sober Living Services. Included in the agreement was a commitment from Valley Recovery Resources to donate \$144,540 as local match funds. On June 26, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved to award an agreement for their services in the amount of \$983,675. Funding from Valley Recovery Resources assisted Child Welfare in reaching augmentation funds of up to \$3.1 million. Since Valley Recovery Resources was established, 315 women and 305 children have been served and Child Welfare was able to restore services and staffing.

As required by the NACO Achievement Award Program, the Community Services/Valley Recovery Resources project will submit as part of the application process details related to the following criteria: abstract of the program, problem/need for the program, description of

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(NACO) Achievement Award for the Community Services Agency/Valley Recovery  
Resources Project  
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the program, use of technology, cost of the program, the results/success of the program,  
and worthiness of an award.

This year's nominations for the NACO Achievement Award must be submitted no later than  
April 14, 2014 and requires authorization from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

This application supports the Board's priority of Effective Partnerships.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Community Services Agency staff will prepare the application for submission. There is no  
additional staffing impact associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Kathryn Harwell, Director. Telephone: 558-2500

I. Program Information

County and State: Stanislaus County, California  
Program Title: Community Services Agency/Valley Recovery Resources Project

Category: Human Services

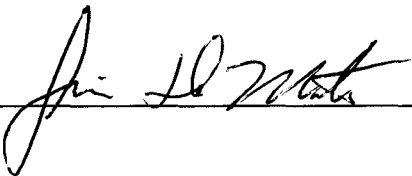
II. Contact Information

Name: Kathryn Harwell  
Title: Director  
Department: Community Services Agency  
Address: 251 E. Hackett Road  
Modesto, California, 95358  
Telephone: 209-558-2500  
Fax: 209-558-2558  
E-mail: harwellk@stancounty.com

III. Signature of Chief Elected Official

Name: Jim DeMartini  
Title: Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Address: 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, California, 95354

Signature:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim DeMartini", is written over a solid horizontal line.

1. **Abstract of the Program**

In Fiscal Year 2010-2011, Stanislaus County was in the midst of its third year of considerable economic decline and budget reductions necessitated minimum local match funding to all programs. As a result, Child Welfare funding was reduced by over 30 percent. Clean and sober living programs faced closure.

In late 2010, concerned citizens from the business and faith community approached Stanislaus County Supervisor Bill O'Brien to strategize how to prevent the closure of the clean and sober living facilities. This group of citizens proposed a unique partnership with the County, offering to form a non-profit (Valley Recovery Resources) and donate the local match so that state and federal dollars could be matched to fund clean and sober living services.

The donation from Valley Recovery Resources enabled the County to draw down \$3.1 million in augmentation funds, allowing the restoration of Child Welfare programs that were eliminated due to budget reductions. As a result, Child Welfare brought back much needed staff and was able to restore substance abuse treatment, clean and sober living, intensive family reunification, family counseling and parenting education services for families in the Child Welfare system.

2. **The Problem/Need for the Program**

Stanislaus County is located in Central California. With approximately 525,000 people calling this area home, its communities reflect a region rich in diversity and a strong sense of community. The mild mediterranean climate and rich soils make the County one of the best agricultural areas in the world. Ongoing challenges include job availability and high unemployment rates, farmland preservation, air quality, and transportation.

In March 2010, the unemployment rate in Stanislaus County was 18.4%. Multiple years of some of the highest unemployment in the nation, combined with the third straight year of declining home values, created a significant strain on local resources as local government continued to experience budget reductions.

In an effort to address these challenges, Stanislaus County developed a 30-month budget strategy with an emphasis on maintaining core or mandated services to maximize limited discretionary funds. In Fiscal Year 2010-2011, local Child Welfare funding for clean and sober living was eliminated from the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency's budget. The County was not able to access additional state Child Welfare augmentation funds, as it was only able to meet the minimum mandated local match requirements. As a result, Child Welfare funding was reduced by over 30 percent. Clean and sober living programs faced closure.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1 in 8 Americans have a serious problem with drugs and/or alcohol. The prevalent production and use of methamphetamine increases the challenge in the Central Valley. Due to limited County resources, a significant number of those requiring substance abuse

services do not have access to these programs. Many of these individuals struggling in our community are women with children. Often, these women do not have access to basic resources, are homeless and do not have a support system for getting clean and sober.

Stanislaus County Community Services Agency's Child Welfare program has utilized clean and sober living programs as a strategy to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Women who are at risk of having their children removed, or have had their children removed due to substance abuse, have a safe place to live with their children while they participate in community substance abuse treatment programs. This program offers women the chance to profoundly change their lives in a supportive environment that surrounds them with faith and discipline. Women receive substance abuse services, as well as mental health services, employment and educational counseling, medical care, child care, housing and transportation. Not only does this program support the success of families affected by substance abuse, it also reduces the financial toll on our foster care system and our community at large.

The pending closure of this non-mandated program would have been a significant loss for our community.

**3. Description of the Program**

In late 2010 and early 2011, a group of concerned citizens from the business and faith community approached County Board of Supervisor William O'Brien to strategize how to prevent the closure of clean and sober living facilities for women and children who were involved in the Child Protective Services System. This group of citizens proposed a unique partnership with the County. They offered to form a non-profit (now known as Valley Recovery Resources) and donate the local match to the County so that state and federal dollars could be matched to fund clean and sober living services.

On May 10, 2011, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Community Services Agency to enter into an emergency contract with Valley Recovery Resources to provide clean and sober living services. Included in the agreement was a commitment from Valley Recovery Resources to donate \$144,540 as local match funds.

Also at this time, Child Welfare was looking for creative ways to fund alternative local match with other partners including the Stanislaus Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Stuart foundation and the Stanislaus County Family Justice Center. Not only did the donation from Valley Recovery Resources help save clean and sober living facilities from closure, but it was the final step for Child Welfare in obtaining augmentation funds of up to \$3.1 million that could be used to restore and expand Child Welfare services programs which were previously eliminated due to reductions in available funding.

In early January, 2012, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was released for clean and sober living, requiring the vendor to provide the local match contribution. On June 26, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved to award an agreement for these services in the amount of \$983,675. Since Valley Recovery Resources was established, 315 women

and 305 children have received services and Child Welfare was able to restore vital Child Welfare services and staffing.

Valley Recovery Resources (VRR) operates two residential sober living environments (Redwood Family Centers) located in Modesto and Ceres, California. VRR is a non-profit corporation that operates under the guidance of a Board of Directors, with an Executive Director to manage daily operations. In addition, there are two program managers in charge of house and resident management and staff supervision, and 16 staff providing direct services to clients.

Women who struggle with substance abuse, and their children, are provided a safe place to live in a structured, supportive and drug free environment as they work toward fulfilling Child Welfare case plans and developing self-sufficiency. They also receive a variety of services from community partners including substance abuse treatment, parenting classes, and other services critical to address the issues that led to the Child Welfare intervention.

**4. Use of Technology**

The project costs were tracked using the County Financial Management System. Electronic mail was used extensively throughout the project to ensure effective communication among the project team.

**5. Cost of the Program**

On May 10, 2010, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved an emergency contract for \$930,600 with Valley Recovery Resources for the period of May 11, 2011 - June 30, 2012. This included a local match requirement of \$153,632, representing \$9,000 for the initial month and a half in Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011 and the remaining annual \$144,540 in donor contributions.

On June 26, 2012, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the annual ongoing contract beginning July 1, 2012 with Valley Recovery Resources in the amount of \$983,675, of which \$181,783 was local match requirement.

Total program costs to date are estimated at \$2.9 million which represents just over three years of program services. Donor contributions of approximately \$500,000 have enabled Stanislaus County to draw down an estimated \$9 million in augmentation funds over the last three fiscal years.

**6. The Results/Success of the Program**

Since Valley Recovery Resources was established, 315 women and 305 children have received services through the Redwood Family Center clean and sober living facilities. Of that number, 260 clients have closed cases with 158 women successfully completing the program. Approximately 55 women are still in treatment. This equates to a 61% success rate. There are no similar programs to compare this data to; however, the

national graduation rates from residential and outpatient alcohol and other drug programs are significantly lower than VRR's observed 61% successful completion rate.

<b>Valley Recovery Resources – Client Data 4.5.14</b>	
<p><b>315 - program referrals</b>  <b>260 - cases closed</b>  <b>158 - successful completion</b>  <b>55 - currently in treatment</b></p>	
<b>64 (25%) Graduation rate</b>	<p><b>Graduation</b></p> <p>Client completed all program requirements and all ancillary treatment program requirements; Alcohol and Drug treatment, Domestic Violence classes, parenting classes and mental health services (as identified in the Child Welfare case plan). Client discharged to long term housing.</p>
<b>32 (12%) Completion rate</b>	<p><b>Completion</b></p> <p>Client completed all program requirements, but has not yet graduated from ancillary service providers programs. Client discharged to long term stable housing. Client will be offered a graduation upon completion of all identified Child Welfare case plan obligations.</p>
<b>62 (24%) LSP rate</b>	<p><b>LSP- Left with Satisfactory Progress</b></p> <p>Services are voluntary and often Community Services Agency will authorize the client to leave to other housing before they have completed both Redwood Family Center services and/or ancillary service providers programs. When this happens, the discharge is designate as LSP, which is consistent with the discharge statuses defined by California Outcome Measurement Systems for licensed alcohol and other drug programs.</p>
<b>158 (61%) Overall Successful Completion Rate</b>	<p><b>Successful Completion Rate</b></p> <p>Includes clients from the three categories above</p>

In addition, the donation from Valley Recovery Resources enabled Stanislaus County to draw down \$3.1 million in augmentation funds in Fiscal Year 2010-2011, with an estimated \$9 million received to date. These additional state Child Welfare augmentation funds have allowed Stanislaus County to reinstate and expand Child Welfare programs which were previously eliminated due to funding reductions. Community partner contracts for substance abuse treatment, clean and sober living, intensive family reunification, family counseling and parenting education services for Child Welfare families were restored. These programs are critical to ensure substance abuse treatment and sober living services are available in the community to support family reunification. Intensive family reunification services support the parent's Child Welfare case plan and expedite safe and timely family reunification, helping to shorten the child's stay in foster care. Services include parenting education and counseling services critical to addressing the issues that led to the Child Welfare intervention. Due to budget cuts, services were available only to those families who were court ordered to participate. As a result, families in which abuse or neglect could not be proven or did not rise to the level of court



intervention, did not receive the essential services to mitigate the issues that could prevent future incidents of abuse and/or neglect.

These funds also enabled the County to restore nine Social Worker positions to work in Child Protective Services hotline/intake, Family Maintenance, Court/Placement, Family Reunification, Permanent Placement and as a Family Reunification Court Hearing Officer. The ability to build back the child protection safety net allows for improved outcomes and the safety of children affected by abuse and neglect.

**7. Worthiness of an Award**

This project is innovative and represents true collaboration between local government and the business and faith community. Born out of a commitment to help families in crisis, a unique partnership was created to ensure clean and sober living facilities remained open so that families struggling with substance abuse could rebuild their lives.

Additionally, the continued donation from Valley Recovery Resources has enabled the County to draw down an estimated \$9 million in augmentation funds to date, allowing the restoration of Child Welfare programs that were eliminated due to budget reductions. As a result, Child Welfare brought back much needed staff and was able to restore community contracts for substance abuse treatment, clean and sober living, intensive family reunification, family counseling and parenting education services for Child Welfare families.

The ability to restore Child Welfare programs will allow families struggling with substance abuse to receive the services they need to rebuild their lives and address the issues that initially led to the Child Welfare intervention. This will support improved outcomes for the safety, well-being and permanency of children affected by abuse and neglect.