

AGENDA



Thursday, March 24, 2011

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 17**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Travis County and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) for a software pilot project to reduce chronic absenteeism in an estimated amount not to exceed \$16,000, with two twelve month renewals in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 each, for a total amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$16,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD). Funding for the renewals is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Stephanie Hayden, Family and Youth Services Manager, 972-5017; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the City/AISD/County Joint Subcommittee.

Prior Council Action: Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget approval September 30, 2010. Council approved Resolution to implement the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee of the City, Travis County and AISD on July 29, 2010.

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a major challenge for too many students in the public school system, impeding student achievement and contributing to unacceptable dropout and high school completion rates. The Joint Subcommittees of the Austin Independent School District (AISD), the City of Austin (City), and Travis County (County) created joint task forces to address truancy and student mobility. One of the recommendations presented to the Joint Subcommittees in February 2010, was to develop a pilot software project to provide real time tracking of AISD student absenteeism, the impact of housing instability, and the effect of providing targeted services to high risk children and their families. The Joint Subcommittees approved a resolution in April 2010 directing staff to work together to implement the recommendations, including the software pilot program.

Under this agreement, AISD will use their purchasing process to obtain the software for the pilot program. The agreed upon estimated cost is not to exceed \$48,000 for the initial purchase the first year and \$36,000 annually in two succeeding fiscal years for software infrastructure/maintenance costs, contingent upon successful outcomes and funds availability. The cost will be allocated equally among the City, County and AISD. The City and County are participating in the development of the scope of work and the data elements to be collected.

Services for at risk children and their families will be coordinated through Family Resource Centers at six AISD campuses. The Resource Centers connect families to community-based agencies, businesses, neighborhood centers, and faith-based organizations to ensure that children are ready to learn when at school, and their parents support their children's social, emotional, physical and academic development.

The Parties will coordinate efforts in data gathering and sharing under this Agreement throughout the term of the Agreement with the intent to maximize the results of the services performed and information analyzed. Renewals each year are contingent upon available budget and staff resources.