

AGENDA



Thursday, October 14, 2010

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

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment Number Ten to the Truancy Court Pilot Project Interlocal Agreement between the City, Travis County and the Travis County Juvenile Board for chronic truancy intervention services for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$38,828.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. The contract period is October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

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

Prior Council Action: Council approved a Truancy Court Interlocal Agreement, January 11, 2007, for the contract period of October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 with three 12-month renewals. Council approved the 2010-2011 Operating Budget, September 13, 2010.

The Truancy Court is operated by Travis County and the Travis County Juvenile Board. This RCA would authorize the City's Health and Human Services Department to provide \$38,828 to Travis County to help fund the program for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The Truancy Court program is designed to intervene with students who are chronically truant at their home school. It provides supervision, referrals to community services and regular review of a student's progress towards reduced truancy. For the 2010-2011 school year, Truancy Court is providing services at Fulmore, Martin, Mendez and Pearce middle schools by utilizing an on site court process. Students are given an option of participating in this deferred prosecution program or having their cases heard through a formal adjudication process. Upon successful completion of the program, the court dismisses all charges against the juvenile.

This program is in line with the efforts of the Joint Subcommittee of the City of Austin, AISD and Travis County. Over the last 18 months, the Joint Subcommittee has been developing systematic strategies to decrease truancy and increase graduation rates throughout the AISD school system. The Subcommittee developed a resolution calling for a partnership between the three entities to develop a strategic work plan to address the following priorities: Truancy Plus, Student Mobility, and Educational Impact Assessment Tool.

Staff, through direction of the Joint Subcommittee and their respective governmental bodies, developed a number of recommendations:

Part of the recommendations called for the creation of four task forces; a juvenile justice/youth court task force; a workforce development task force; an academic relevance and rigor task force; and a mobility deterrence task force.

These groups are to develop recommendations that will substantially decrease truancy rates. The pilot program will be a part of the overall assessment prepared for the Joint Subcommittee and ultimately, the City Council.