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Memorandum Date: April 19, 2005
Order Date: May 4, 2005

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Youth Services

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Smith

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF Approving the Contract Between Lane Workforce Partnership and Youth Services in the Amount of \$120,000 to Provide Education and Workforce Development Services for 30 Youth and Approving the Creation of 1 FTE Employment Specialist Position Within Youth Services.

I. MOTION

To approve the contract between the Lane Workforce Partnership and Youth Services in the amount of \$120,000 to provide education and workforce development services for 30 youth and approving the creation of 1 FTE Employment Specialist within Youth Services.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Lane Workforce Partnership has offered a contract in the amount of \$120,000 to the Department of Youth Services to provide education and workforce development services for 30 high-risk youth. The creation of an employment specialist position is critical to ensure that the requirements of the contract are fulfilled. If the Board approves then the County Administrator also needs to be authorized to sign the contract.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

No previous Board Action.

In February 2005, the Lane Workforce Partnership solicited Letters of Interest for projects to provide education and workforce development services for high-risk youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Lane County Department of Youth Services was the sole responder, with a proposal to serve 30 high-risk youth through the Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center with education and workforce development services. Youth Services and the Lane Workforce Partnership had worked on a similar smaller, pilot project during the summer of 2004.

B. Policy Issues

Youth Services is the sole juvenile justice provider for Lane County. One of the programs offered at the Department of Youth Services is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center. This program provides education, supervision, life skills and workforce development training. The importance of the development of vocational and job skills in delinquent youth is rapidly being recognized as an effective intervention against re-offending based on research. The Lane Workforce Investment Act of 1998 as amended has focused attention on the workforce needs of youth and provides funding for programming that assists youth in making meaningful connections to businesses and employment. The youth that are targeted for participation in the Youth Services project must be juvenile offenders. This contract allows both Youth Services and the Lane Workforce Partnership to meet their respective program objectives.

C. Board Goals

This project supports the Lane County Goals as identified in the Lane County Strategic Plan 2001-2005. Specifically, the project supports:

- Ensure the provision of basic social support in the areas of health care, disease prevention, protection, poverty reduction and independent living
- Ensure the public's safety with regard to adult and juvenile crime, emergency preparedness and regional cooperative policing through law enforcement, intervention, prosecution, incarceration, and parole and probation, while protecting individual's constitutional rights.

Lane County also places special emphasis on programs that serve youth.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The funds provided through this contract are a result of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 as amended. No resource match is required for this project and no county general funds are obligated in this project. One new FTE Employment Specialist position will be funded through this contract, if approved by the Board.

E. Analysis

The contract will be for the time period between May 2005 and June 30, 2006. Youth Services will be able to compete for a three-year contract for services to youthful offenders in 2006 to continue this project.

The proposed project will provide critical services to a population that has great difficulty in entering the workforce. The ability to obtain and maintain employment could provide a vital incentive to maintain a crime-free life. This project would provide job search assistance, job coaching, case-management and on-going contact with both the

employer and youth to ensure that the employment experience is successful. Juvenile justice research is showing positive results in this type of approach as having a positive impact on lessening re-offending.

A total of \$24,000 in grant funds were appropriated in Supplemental Budget #2 to cover program costs for the remainder of FY 04-05. The balance of funds will be included in the FY 05-06 budget.

f. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the contract, create the 1 FTE position of Employment Specialist, and delegate the County Administrator the authority to sign the contract.

2. Do not approve the contract. The project would not take place and 30 youth offenders would not receive educational and workforce development services.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

After the approval and signing of the contract, Youth Services will begin screening youth for program participation and work with Human Resources to create the Employment Specialist position. It is anticipated that project will be fully implemented by June 2005.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Youth Services recommends that the Board approve option #1 of Section IV.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR LANE COUNTY

ORDER RESOLUTION: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE LANE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP AND YOUTH SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000 TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR 30 YOUTH AND APPROVING THE CREATION OF A 1 FTE EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST POSITION WITHIN YOUTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, Lane Workforce Partnership has funding for workforce development for high-risk youth, including juvenile offenders through Title I of the Workforce Development Act of 1998, as amended, and;

WHEREAS, Youth Services, can provide workforce development services for juvenile offenders through the Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center, and:

WHEREAS, Lane Workforce Partnership solicited Letters of Interest for this project and Youth Services was the sole responder, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the Lane County Strategic Plan, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a contract between Lane Workforce Partnership and Lane County, Oregon in the amount of \$120,000 for education and workforce development services for 30 youth and a 1 FTE Employment Specialist position within Youth Services is approved, and the County Administrator is authorized to sign a contract in substantial conformity with this Order.

Dated this 4th day of May 2005.

Anna Morrison, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 4/27/05 Lane County
Teresa Gulch
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL