



Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2008

Child Mental Health Initiative Request for Applications

Item III.A.

Recommended Action: Approve Grant Application and Authorize Signature

Issue: Child Welfare System Development and Expansion

Program: Child Mental Health Initiative

Budget Impact: Up to \$250K for Fiscal Year '08-'09

Strategic Plan Goal: Child Maltreatment

Background:

Staff is requesting permission to respond to a Request for Applications recently released by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) office. The RFA is entitled 'Cooperative Agreements for Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families' (Short Title: Child Mental Health Initiative). It identifies children in the child welfare system as a priority population to be served.

The JWB Child Welfare Advocacy Office, established in February 2006, has spent the last year reviewing the Pinellas County Child Welfare and children's services delivery system. Staff has identified that timely access to quality mental health services is a major gap in early intervention services for children in the child welfare system.

The SAMHSA Child Mental Health Initiative award will enable JWB to plan for and provide an early intervention system of care. It involves collaboration among child welfare agencies, families, and youth to improve access and expand the array of services for children and youth with serious mental health issues. The project will begin with a focus on Pinellas children from birth to five. According to the *Pinellas County Safe Start Child Protection Report (2007)* children ages birth to five represent the largest group entering the Pinellas child welfare system. Subsequent years of the award will allow for expansion of the services to include Pinellas youth 6-12 and 13-17 years old.

The six-year award, expected to begin by October 2008, allows for \$1M for the first year of planning. Services are carried out and evaluated during the following five years, with estimated annual Federal funding from \$1M - \$2M throughout the period. JWB will allocate a portion of counseling and mental health funding as match support for the Child Mental Health Initiative award. For the first, second, and third fiscal years of the cooperative agreement, JWB will provide \$1 for each \$3 of Federal funds. For the fourth fiscal year, \$1 for each \$1 of Federal funding is required. During the fifth and sixth fiscal years, the local match is \$2 for each \$1 of Federal funds. JWB funded agencies providing mental health services to children and families and the

Department of Children and Families are partners in this proposed project, led by the JWB Child Welfare Advocacy Office.

Below is an outline of JWB's commitment over the six-year grant period:

<u>Grant Year</u>	<u>Maximum Total Amount</u>	<u>JWB Commitment</u>	<u>Federal Grant</u>	<u>JWB's Portion</u>
1	1,000,000	250,000	750,000	\$1 for each \$3
2	1,500,000	375,000	1,125,000	\$1 for each \$3
3	2,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	\$1 for each \$3
4	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	50 / 50
5	1,500,000	1,000,500	499,500	\$2 for each \$1
6	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>667,000.</u>	<u>333,000</u>	\$2 for each \$1
Total	<u>9,000,000</u>	<u>3,792,500.</u>	<u>5,207,500</u>	

The Child Mental Health Initiative application is due on February 1, 2008.

Recommendation:

Approve the Child Welfare Advocacy Office's request to respond to the SAMHSA Child Mental Health initiative Request for Applications, and authorize the appropriate JWB representative to sign the application and any other required transmittal documents.