

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 14, 2012 Consent Regular
 Ordinance Public Hearing

Department: Department of Public Safety
Submitted By: Department of Public Safety
Submitted For: Division of Youth Affairs

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: Reopening twelve (12) vacant treatment beds at Highridge Family Center (HRFC) in order to reduce the waiting list which, at times, has reached as high as 100 youths. This would be accomplished at no additional cost (other than minor food cost) through the re-assignment, restructuring, and re-training of staff from the Youth Service Bureau.

Summary: Since the closure in 2008 of the two (2) dormitories (24 beds) at the Highridge Family Center for budgetary and low census reasons, there has been a consistent waiting list. At one point, there were one-hundred (100) youths on the waitlist with seventy five (75) of them male and twenty five (25) female. While there are seasonal fluctuations in requesting these services, a consistent waitlist is not uncommon. The HRFC provides families with high quality comprehensive family services counseling to prevent "at risk" children from entering the Juvenile Justice System. At the one year follow up, 91.7% of the youths that completed our program had not been arrested as evidenced by preliminary study results of six years of program participants (2003-2009). Furthermore, at the end of treatment, parents reported a decrease in aggression, behavior conduct problems, and hyperactivity; and, an increase in social skills, leadership, and communication. Parents have also reported children completing the treatment program have significantly improved their school grades during the 90 day program. By reassigning and restructuring the Division of Youth Affairs, staff will be able to support the additional males that will be placed in the 12 beds. Countywide (PGE)

Background and Policy Issues: As a result of the ever increasing need for our services, a twelve (12) bed dormitory would be reopened and four (4) current staff reassigned to provide the direct clinical services to the new residents. The reassigned staff would include three (3) Family Counselors and one (1) Family Therapist from the Youth Affairs Youth Service Bureau (YSB). Currently, the Family Counselors are responsible for:

1. Providing psycho-educational groups in schools,
2. Conducting admission interviews and assessments, and
3. Filling in with clerical and reception responsibilities.

Reassigning these staff to HRFC would utilize them in a more direct clinical service to our clientele. They would be responsible for the day-to-day, hour-by-hour management of the additional 12 residents we could admit to the program. They would continue to provide psycho-educational counseling groups as well as cover recreational and daily living activities. In short, they would be offering far more direct service than they are in their current role at YSB. This shift would require remaining YSB staff to assume these responsibilities. Currently, the YSB family therapist is responsible for:

1. Providing Family Therapy to an assigned caseload,
2. Providing Therapy and Psycho-educational groups to schools and special programs,
3. Providing Individual Therapy on an as-needed basis, and

Re-assigning these staff members to the HRFC would not significantly change their existing responsibilities other than to work with children in a different environmental setting.

Attachment:
 1) Youth Service Bureau Brochure

Recommended by:	 _____ Department Director	7/16/12 _____ Date
Approved by:	 _____ Assistant County Administrator	7/16/12 _____ Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Net Fiscal Impact	<u>_____*</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____

Budget Account Exp No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____
 Rev No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fund: General Fund
 Unit: Highridge Family Center

* There is no fiscal impact with reopening the 12 vacant beds. If any, the impact is nominal.

Departmental Fiscal Review: Stephanie Seproka

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

[Signature] 7/19/2012
 OFMB
 7/18/12

[Signature] 7/19/12
 Contract Administration
 7-19-12 B. W. Kuebler

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature]
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

Youth Service Bureau

Professional Community-Based Clinical Services

What is Youth Service Bureau?

A three-month community based program providing free therapeutic services to families with children up to age 17.

Services Provided:

- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy

Counseling Issues Addressed:

- Abuse and Neglect
- Behavioral Problems
- Blended Families
- Communication
- Depression/Anxiety
- Family Violence
- Firesetting Behavior
- Grief and Loss
- Parent/Child Relationships
- School-related Concerns
- Separation/Divorce
- Step-Families
- Truancy

Who can contact Youth Service Bureau?

- Parents
- School Personnel
- Law Enforcement
- Community Agencies
- Any child 13 or older may contact us directly to begin services
- Anyone who knows a Child that may need help

Who Qualifies for the Program?

- Families with children through age 17
- Palm Beach County Residents

Education Center

Professional Parenting, Continuing Education & Internship Clinical Services

What is the Education Center?

A community resource for education, training, and professional development. The Education Center provides free services to children, families, school personnel, and mental health professionals in Palm Beach County.

Services Provided:

- **Parent Education Skills**
Based on STEP Program
Individual
Groups/Classes
- **Continuing Education**
CE credits for Psychologists, LCSWs,
LMFTs, LMHCs
- **Speakers Bureau**
Presentations to community agencies
on a variety of topics related to children
and families.
- **Annual Resource Fair**
- **Pre-Doctoral Psychology Internship
(APPIC Member)**
- **Field Placement site for Master's
& Doctoral level students**

Highridge Family Center

Professional Residential Clinical Services

What is Highridge Family Center?

A three-month free residential treatment program serving at-risk families with adolescents ages 11 through 16 years.

Services Provided:

- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Behavior Management
- Specialized ADHD Track
- Milieu Treatment
- Parent Education
- School Experience
- Recreational Activities
- Nutritional Services

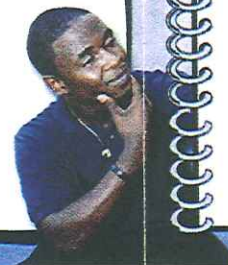
How The Program Works:

- Daily therapeutic services Monday through Friday
- Residential & School Behavior Management
- Parental involvement in weekly family sessions & monthly educational groups
- Residents & families practice new skills at home each weekend

The Facility Has:

- Four (two male and two female) dormitory-style "houses"
- A Palm Beach County School District alternative education school component
- Indoor/Outdoor Recreational facilities
- Nutritional Services

PLEASE CALL FOR ELIGIBILITY



Mission Statement

The mission of the Youth Affairs Division is to provide the families of Palm Beach County with the highest quality, comprehensive, family services. Our goal is to prevent "at risk" children from entering the Juvenile Justice System. The Division is committed to offering a level of care to those families who need significant professional support in their efforts to develop healthy functioning children. This is accomplished by developing healthy functioning families. Competence, caring, and concern are the cornerstones of the Division's programs. Maintaining and strengthening the integrity of the family is the Division's highest goal.

Professional Staff

The Palm Beach County Youth Affairs Division is professionally supervised by a Doctor of Psychology who has extensive experience working with families and adolescents. The professional staff consists of bachelor's level counselors, master's level and licensed therapists and psychologists.



Palm Beach County Public Safety Department Youth Affairs Division www.pbeyouthaffairs.org Youth Service Bureau

Education Center
100 Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Tel: (561) 233-4460 Fax: (561) 233-4475

North County
3188 PGA Blvd., Suite 1436
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Tel: (561) 624-6562 Fax: (561) 624-6570

Central County
100 Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Tel: (561) 233-4460 Fax: (561) 233-4475

West County
2976 State Road 80
Belle Glade, FL 33430
Tel: (561) 992-1233 Fax: (561) 996-4832

South County
345 South Congress Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33445
Tel: (561) 276-1340 or Tel: (561) 732-2402
Fax: (561) 276-1208

Highridge Family Center

4200 North Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
Tel: (561) 625-2540 Fax: (561) 840-4545



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

Rev. 12/09



Palm Beach County
Public Safety Department
Youth Affairs Division

We Can Help Build
Paths
to a
Healthier
Family

