

City of Oakland
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
2005 MAY 12 PM 9:08

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Office of Parks and Recreation
DATE: May 24, 2005

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WITHOUT RETURNING TO CITY COUNCIL, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY AND TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE FEES COLLECTED FROM REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY

An application has been prepared for the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) to become eligible to receive monetary reimbursement from Regional Center of the East Bay for providing integrated recreation based program services for developmentally disabled youth. Currently, OPR bears the full cost for providing inclusive recreation services to youth with disabilities.

If Council authorizes the City Administrator to pursue this application and enter a subsequent professional service agreement, OPR will be better able to serve youth with disabilities, and will be able to receive reimbursement from Regional Center of the East Bay at a rate sufficient to meet or exceed staff cost. OPR will be able hire one part-time staff for every four youth referred by Regional Center of the East Bay. The staff will work within existing programs to facilitate the social training and integration of developmentally disabled youth into a mainstream environment.

The initial program will be offered at the Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center with the possibility of expanding to other locations in the future.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Authorization of the vendor application and subsequent professional service agreement will allow OPR to hire one part-time Program Specialist II at no net cost to the City. The cost of the position would be reimbursed by Regional Center of the East Bay. The vendor agreement would not preclude the Office of Parks and Recreation from charging the normal program fees to disabled participants in addition to money received from Regional Center of the East Bay. Any additional administrative time spent hiring and training staff will be absorbed into the current Office of Parks and Recreation budget.

The projected reimbursement rate from Regional Center of the East Bay to the Office of Parks and Recreation for serving developmentally disabled youth will be approximately \$7.00 per child per hour with a cap of 800 service hours per year. Under the provisions of the Program Design, participants will be required to maintain a 90% attendance rate over the course of the year. Given

Item: 9

Life Enrichment Committee
May 24, 2005

an enrollment of four youth at a 90% attendance rate the projected reimbursement for the first fiscal year will be \$20,160. A Program Specialist II with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation will be paid \$18.92 per hour + 17% fringe + \$1.51 per hour for health and welfare. The total projected cost for this position for the first fiscal year will be \$18,918 per four children served. Any overage in reimbursement would go toward the supplies and materials required for the program.

BACKGROUND

Regional Center of the East Bay is a private, non-profit corporation under contract with the State of California Department of Developmental Services to provide funding for programs for disabled youth. Regional Center of the East Bay works in partnership with many individuals and other agencies to plan and coordinate services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. OPR does not currently have a formal partnership with Regional Center of the East Bay, though their clients have participated in OPR programs, such as "Youth Signs" for deaf and hard of hearing children, the Inclusive Computer Lab, Special Olympics sports, and others.

Regional Center of the East Bay is interested in entering into an agreement with OPR because there is currently only one vendor, Ala Costa Center, which provides programs for developmentally disabled youth on a large scale in Oakland. This vendor does not have sufficient capacity to facilitate the after school, holiday, and summer program needs of developmentally disabled youth. OPR programs operate under the "Inclusion Model," which emphasizes socialization between developmentally disabled and typically developing youth, as a programmatic alternative to the segregated specialized approach to serving youth with disabilities. The Ala Costa Center uses a program delivery model that segregates the population into specialized activities. Through its agreement with Regional Center of the East Bay, OPR will be able to gradually increase the number of open program slots for developmentally disabled youth.

OPR seeks to serve more participants with developmental disabilities, which an agreement with Regional Center of the East Bay would help accomplish. OPR's program will offer youth with special needs a chance to develop the capacity to integrate into mainstream programs more seamlessly. It is the long-term goal of the program to produce graduates who will be able to access all of Oakland's diverse programs without further need of supports.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that youth with disabilities receive access and accommodation to all programs offered to the general public. A public agency may not legally deny services based on a person's disability unless the necessary accommodations are beyond the agency's financial capability. Since the law looks at the overall budget of a city in determining reasonable accommodations, the burden on public agencies to provide access and accommodations is extremely high.

Based on the ADA, the City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation must serve youth regardless of their disability at no additional charge. This holds true even if OPR must hire supplemental staff in order to safely include a child in its services and programs. Under the

current system, the City may only charge the standard fees for program participation. Any additional costs for ADA accommodation are borne by the individual service department such as OPR.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

It is the purpose of the OPR Inclusive Recreation Center office to supply a support system for individuals with disabilities to facilitate participation in programs offered to the general public or to provide specialized programs designed to meet the needs of specific target populations. The Inclusive Social Development program is designed to provide inclusion services utilizing socialization-training techniques for youth with developmental disabilities. The program goal is to increase the social interaction skills of youth with disabilities so they may successfully participate in recreation programs with typically developing youth.

Participants in the program must reside in Oakland, and be clients of Regional Center of the East Bay. Regional Center of the East Bay will refer the participants to the program. Youth must exhibit behavioral issues pertaining to socialization within the autistic spectrum and exhibit the capacity to respond correctly to one-step directives from staff and other participants when appropriate. Participants must also have the developmental capacity to express themselves verbally, although a child who *chooses* not to communicate verbally at the time of entry will not necessarily be precluded from the program.

The program will initially be offered at the Inclusive Recreation Center located at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center. This site was chosen because it is the home of OPR's Inclusive Recreation program and operational supports are already in place there. Additional program openings will eventually be offered at recreation centers City-wide. The projected start-up date for the program is July 5, 2005. Continual funding for this program will be provided by Regional Center of the East Bay.

Internal evaluation tools will include parent, youth, and staff surveys. The Individual Program Planning (IPP) Team organized by Regional Center of the East Bay will create socialization goals for youth participating in the program. The IPP team includes, Case Managers, Family Members, OPR staff, and other specialists retained by Regional Center of the East Bay. OPR will monitor and document progress in socialization goals during the youth's participation in the program.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Additional part-time Program Specialist jobs will be made available as the program grows. By making Parks and Recreation programs more accessible to youth with disabilities, there will also be an increase in revenue from registration fees.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities related to this report.

Social Equity: The inclusion model of serving youth with disabilities encourages interactions between social groups in community based recreation centers. The increase in individuals with disabilities participating in Parks and Recreation programs not only helps the target population but builds understanding and tolerance within typically developing youth as well.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR ACCESS

The Inclusive Social Development program will increase the Office of Parks and Recreation's ability to fulfill its mandate to serve youth with disabilities.

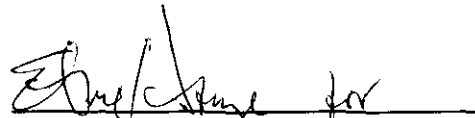
RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional service agreement with Regional Center of the East Bay whereby the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation will be recognized as a vendor eligible to receive reimbursement from Regional Center of the East Bay for providing services for youth with developmental disabilities.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff requests that City Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional service agreement with Regional Center of the East Bay whereby the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation will be recognized as a vendor eligible to receive reimbursement from Regional Center of the East Bay for providing services for youth with developmental disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,



Audree V. Jones-Taylor

Director, Office of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:
Kip Walsh, Office Administrator
Office of Parks and Recreation

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

FILED *Johnnie Tong*
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WITHOUT RETURNING TO CITY COUNCIL, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY AND TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE FEES COLLECTED FROM THE REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

WHEREAS, an application has been prepared that will allow the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) to be eligible to receive monetary reimbursement from the Regional Center of the East Bay to provide integrated recreation-based programs services for developmentally disabled youth; and

WHEREAS, authorization of the vendor application and subsequent professional service agreement will allow OPR to hire part-time staff to provide services to youth with disabilities, at no net cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, the vendor agreement would not preclude OPR from charging the normal program fees to participants; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Center of the East Bay is a private, non-profit corporation under contract with the State of California Department of Developmental Services to provide funding for programs for developmentally disabled youth ; and

WHEREAS, OPR does not currently have a formal partnership with the Regional Center of the East Bay; and

WHEREAS, through its agreement with the Regional Center of the East Bay, OPR will be able to gradually increase the number of open program slots for developmentally disabled youth; and

WHEREAS, it is the long-term goal of the program to produce graduates who will be able to access all of Oakland's diverse programs without further need of supports; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that youth with disabilities receive access and accommodation to all programs offered to the general public; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Inclusive Recreation Center office to supply a support system for individuals with disabilities to facilitate participation in programs offered to the general public or to provide specialized programs designed to meet the needs of specific target populations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute a professional service agreement with the Regional Center of the East Bay and to accept and appropriate fees collected from the Regional Center of the East Bay for providing services for youth with developmental disabilities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Office of the City Attorney has approved this resolution as to form and legality, and a copy will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20____.
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

9
LIFE ENRICHMENT CMTE

MAY 24 2005

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California