

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

2008 JUN 26 PM 7:41

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah A. Edgerly  
FROM: Department of Human Services  
DATE: July 8, 2008

RE: **Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Execute An Amendment To The Agreement Between The City Of Oakland And Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. For An Amount Not To Exceed \$50,000 For A Total Amount Not To Exceed \$210,750, To Provide Restorative Justice Training And Coordination At Eight Middle Schools In Accordance With Measure Y For The Period Of July 1, 2008 To June 30, 2009**

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**SUMMARY**

Per City Council direction at its June 17, 2008 meeting, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has prepared a resolution seeking City Council approval to execute a \$50,000 amendment to the approved \$160,750 Fiscal Year 2008-09 grant agreement with Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc., for a total not to exceed \$210,750, in order to expand Restorative Justice training and coordination to eight (8) new pilot middle school sites.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The funds for this grant will be appropriated from the Measure Y Second Step Project (G310460), Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Organization (78111). There is no impact on the General Fund.

**BACKGROUND**

On June 17, 2008, City Council adopted a resolution allocating approximately \$6.5 million in Measure Y funding for Fiscal Year 2008-09. At that time the, City Council also requested that DHS return with a resolution to reallocate \$50,000 of the Measure Y funding from the Oakland Unified School District's Second Step curriculum coaching to Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC) in order to expand the pilot Restorative Justice program at Cole Middle School to other middle schools in the coming school year. In Fiscal Year 2007-08, AHC received \$25,000 to provide restorative training to community members and juvenile justice professionals, and

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another \$135,000 to implement the program at Cole Middle School. In Fiscal Year 2008-09, these amounts are \$25,750 and \$135,000 respectively.

The reduction in funding for OUSD Second Step would eliminate Measure Y support for this curriculum at 18 middle schools but leave intact the funding to support implementation in all pre-K through fifth grades.

### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The following information has been provided by the grantee in response to City Council's request for information about how the restorative justice program could be expanded to other OUSD middle schools if an additional \$50,000 were made available.

“Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) is a diverse group of community activists, youth, lawyers, judges, educators, elected officials, and others who seek to fundamentally shift the way officials respond to wrongdoing. RJOY's mission is to create just communities in which those who inflict pain and those who suffer pain can heal in peace and with dignity. RJOY's members seed restorative practices in schools, the juvenile justice system, and the community.

The Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc., a 501(c) (3) organization based in West Oakland, provides fiscal sponsorship as well as meeting space for RJOY. RJOY is engaged in a collaboration with the juvenile justice system to implement restorative measures within Alameda County's juvenile justice division which: (1) Focus on repairing the harm caused by crime and on addressing the needs and obligations which arise in its wake; (2) Support the needs of victims; (3) Hold offenders accountable and support them in the effort to transform and re-integrate into the community as positive, productive citizens.

According to AHC, Cole Middle School's success in obtaining a more peaceful and cooperative school climate, a 20% reduction in suspensions, and zero referrals to the Disciplinary Hearing Panel (DHP), has led other Oakland Unified School District principals to develop an interest in restorative justice.

In collaboration with several partners—OUSD's Department of Complimentary Learning and Family Community Office, as well as the OUR Kids program of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, School Health Services Coalition—RJOY invited the Minnesota State Specialist overseeing funding and programming for Violence Prevention and Safe and Drug Free Schools to provide a training session for administrators of restorative justice in schools. The training took place in the final weeks of this past academic year. Forty-eight (48) principals and administrative staff took part in the Positive School Climate through Restorative Justice workshop.

As a result of the workshop and the success at Cole middle school, fifteen (15) schools have expressed interest in adopting and piloting restorative justice philosophy and practices at their sites.<sup>1</sup> While RJOY has secured a contract through OUSD to pilot restorative justice in three to five schools, it lacks the capacity with current funding to meet the demand. RJOY has one fulltime employee funded through Measure Y focused on the Cole Middle School initiative and a half-time coordinator who is responsible for coordinating all of RJOY's initiatives. For RJOY to provide the breadth and depth of restorative justice training and technical assistance to OUSD and site administrators at the new pilot sites, and to continue to develop the work at Cole Middle School, RJOY needs to expand the current part-time position to coordinate these efforts.

With the \$50,000 of increased funding, RJOY will allocate funds to support an additional .5 FTE staff person dedicated to coordinating restorative justice efforts at the additional pilot schools. This position will work with the full-time RJ Coordinator, currently overseeing the first restorative justice pilot—Cole Middle School—to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Continue to build and strengthen the necessary relationships with different departments in OUSD, including the Family Community Office which is responsible for overseeing and carrying out the DHP process.
2. Collaborate with OUSD, Measure Y, and other partners to select 8 pilot school sites to implement restorative justice.
3. Coordinate and provide on-going training, technical assistance, and support to the pilot school sites in restorative justice theory and practice in order to improve school climate and decrease violence and disciplinary referrals in the schools.
4. Facilitate the development of alternative processes and referral structures for disciplinary issues and for students referred to DHP at the pilot schools and at the district level. The alternative processes will focus on bringing those most affected together to determine the harm caused by the offending behavior, the needs identified and created as a result of the behavior that caused harm, and setting agreements to repair the harm to the degree possible.
5. Reduce the number of students referred to the DHP by at least 25% at pilot school sites and by doing so, lower the number of students transferred from one school to another, decrease the loss of instructional time that results, increase student connection with the school they attend, and decrease expenses for the district by lowering the number of DHPs.
6. Continue to support and maintain the pilot at Cole Middle School.
7. Provide quarterly reports to the City of Oakland on the status of the pilot school sites and outcomes of the initiative including projected reduction in physical altercations on campus by the second semester by at least 25%.

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<sup>1</sup> OUSD Schools that are interested in becoming a pilot site for restorative justice are: Bret Harte Middle School, Coliseum College Prep Academy School, Dewey High School, Edna Brewer Middle School, EXCEL High School, Fruitvale Elementary, Lockwood/Futures Elementary School, Madison Middle School, Melrose Leadership Academy, MetWest High School, Roots International Academy, United for Success Academy, Urban Promise Academy, Westlake Middle School, and Cole Middle School—RJOY's current Pilot.

Restorative justice aims to shift the discipline paradigm from punitive to restorative. This shift requires many conversations and significant time with people who influence the way disciplinary processes are carried out at OUSD. By increasing the personnel time allocated to the restorative justice pilot school initiative, RJOY expects to have a greater capacity to work with OUSD to influence change in the district-wide disciplinary system from being punitive to more restorative.”

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Economic:**

Providing at-risk youth with these violence prevention programs will further the City's violence prevention efforts and assist young people in becoming law-abiding, responsible and stable contributing tax paying residents of the City of Oakland. These programs also reduce the costs (including police and court costs as well as direct damage costs) of crimes prevented.

### **Environmental:**

No environmental opportunities have been identified.

### **Social Equity:**

By working with at-risk youth to prevent violence, these Measure Y programs help this population to complete school and avoid arrest and incarceration. These programs assist young people in obtaining social equity.

## **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

All activities sponsored by these grants will be fully accessible.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**


At Council request, staff has prepared a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute a \$50,000 amendment to the approved \$160,750 Fiscal Year 2008-09 grant agreement with Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc., for a total not to exceed \$210,750, in order to expand and support Restorative Justice training and coordination to eight (8) new pilot middle school sites.

Approval of these agreements will shift resources from the provision of Second Step Violence Prevention Curriculum coaching by the Oakland Unified School District to expand AHC's restorative justice pilot program at Cole Middle School to eight new middle school sites.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

That City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute an amendment to the agreement between the City Of Oakland and Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide Restorative Justice training and coordination at eight OUSD Middle Schools in accordance with Measure Y for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

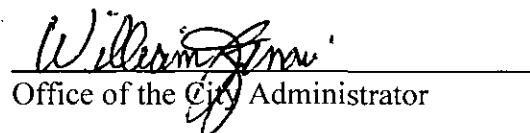


ANDREA YOUNGDAHL, Director  
Department of Human Services

Reviewed by:  
Sara Bedford, Policy & Planning Manager

Prepared by:  
Anne Marks, Policy & Planning, Planner

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

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FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND  
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Approved as to Form and Legality

  
City Attorney

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND ATTITUDINAL HEALING CONNECTION, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$210,750, TO PROVIDE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TRAINING AND COORDINATION AT EIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEASURE Y FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, City of Oakland voters passed Measure Y, the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004, in November 2004, approving a series of taxes to support violence prevention objectives, programs and services to reduce violence among children, youth and young adults in Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council expressed on June 17, 2008, that Restorative Justice training is an effective violence prevention investment in middle schools; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for this agreement is available in Public Safety Act / 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), HHS Administration organization (78111), DHS Measure Y Project (G310460); and

**WHEREAS**, the Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) Committee has determined that Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc., a local non-profit agency with a mission encompassing restorative justice principles, has the facilitation and organizational expertise to provide the support needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that this agreement shall not result in the loss of employment or salary by any person having permanent status in the competitive services; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute an amendment to its agreement with Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. in the additional amount of \$50,000 from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, for a total not to exceed \$210,750; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That these funds will be allocated from Public Safety Act / 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Organization (78111), DHS Measure Y Project (G310460); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests and related actions which may be necessary in accordance with its basic purpose; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That said agreement shall be approved as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**LATONDA SIMMONS**  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California