

2010 City Council Budget Action (SLI)

Approved

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42	2	A	1

Budget Action Title: Residential Recovery Program for Prostituted Children

Councilmembers: Burgess; Clark; Conlin; Licata

Staff Analyst: Betsy Graef

Budget Committee Vote:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>TB</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>RC</i>	<i>JD</i>	<i>JG</i>	<i>BH</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>RM</i>	<i>TR</i>
11/12/2009	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

In approving funding for the pilot residential recovery program for prostituted children, it is the Council's intent that the Human Services Department (HSD) will apply a rigorous evaluation component in order to establish a program that will be a national model over the longer term. Another goal is for the program to evolve into a network of providers serving prostituted children statewide while allowing them to be close to family members, as appropriate. Finally, the Council intends that the selected provider will work closely with an advisory committee of program experts to be established by HSD and convened throughout the pilot period. The purpose of the advisory committee is to (1) offer advice and support, (2) address problems and remove barriers as they arise and, (3) to the extent possible, review outcome information and suggest program revisions as needed.

Expectations for performance should take into account the extremely challenging circumstances of prostituted children. Research indicates that most were victimized before ever engaging in prostitution. Because they have been psychologically manipulated, physically coerced and deeply indoctrinated by their exploiters, they tend to run back to the streets if they have the opportunity. And, because they have often experienced violence and high levels of trauma on a repeated basis, they can be difficult to engage. Most have missed normal developmental experiences and lack basic life skills; they often have decreased coping skills, poor self-concepts and developmental delays; and some may be bipolar or suffer from other mental illnesses. As a consequence, relapse and program exits will occur.

The Council intends for HSD to contract with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, as well as other evaluators, to assess the effectiveness of the program. In addition to basic service numbers, other outcomes that may be measured include:

- Do participants in the residential recovery program have lower involvement (recidivism) with the criminal justice system as a result of their involvement in the program vs. those who are not in the program but have similar backgrounds?

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- Are children in the program more likely to participate in the prosecution of their pimp/exploiter(s) than those not in the program but with similar backgrounds?
- Are participants able to set and achieve personal goals?
- Is there a decrease in mental health and substance abuse symptoms for children served vs. those not served but with similar backgrounds?
- What are the key program components that help participants achieve their goals, decrease recidivism and address mental health and drug use symptoms?
- What are key characteristics of children coming into the program that help them achieve their goals, decrease recidivism, and address mental health and drug use symptoms?

The Council requests that HSD provide the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee an initial report of program service delivery and performance by September 30, 2010. A more detailed report, including the findings of contracted evaluators, should be provided to the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee within 15 months of initiating services but no later than June 2011.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Public Safety, Human Services, and Education

Date Due to Council:

Initial report to Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee by September 30, 2010

Detailed report, including contracted evaluation findings to Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee within 15 months of initiating services but no later than June 2011