



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2E
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: March 10, 2015

Title of Item: Out of State Travel Request

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Sue Tange		Department: H&HS
Presenter (Name and Title): n/a		Estimated Time Needed: n/a
Summary of Issue: Please see the attached memo.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve out of state travel request.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Memorandum

To: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
CC: Tom Burke, Director ACH&HS; Nate Burkett, County Administrator
From: Sue Tange, Social Services Supervisor
Date: 2/26/2015
Re: Out-of-State Travel

Remnica House, our community's supervised visitation and safe exchange center, has received an invitation to attend a "Reflection Retreat" in Washington, D.C. on March 19 and 20, 2015. Remnica House has been funded by Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program out of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) which is a division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Aitkin County has been the recipient/fiscal agent for the two grants. The start-up and development grant was awarded in 2007 and a continuation grant was awarded in 2011. Out of these grants a certain amount has been dedicated to orientation and training of the grant recipients.

For the life of these grants Aitkin County Health and Human Services has served as the required "government partner" to Advocates Against Domestic Abuse (AADA), and I, as the representative of ACHHS, have participated in the grant activities as Remnica House was developed. Remnica House opened in the summer of 2009, and has served many families not only from around our county, but also families from around our region. Families are served by Remnica at no charge. I continue to serve Remnica House as the government partner in an advisory capacity.

My understanding is that this will be a focused time to review what we have been able to accomplish with our project and grant monies over these last years and to discuss where we still need to go/what we still need to plan. Further, the current grant source is now out of an organization called "Justice for Families," and granters have found value in getting their grantees together in one place. Expenses regarding attendance at the conference, airline, mileage, lodging and meals are borne totally by the training dollars available within this grant. The only expense to Aitkin County would be my time/salary for those days I would be away from my desk. It is likely that travel days will be Wednesday, March 18 and Saturday, March 21. My travel companions, should I be approved to participate, will be the executive director of AADA, the coordinator of Remnica House, and a representative of District Court.

It has been my privilege to have participated in this supervised visitation project since its inception in 2007. The group that worked to bring Remnica to the community put together a good program that has filled a need and has provided safety for many children over the years of operation. I hope that the Board will share our interest in having me attend this training opportunity, and that I will be granted permission to travel out of state. Thank you for your attention to this request.