

Lee County Board Of County Commissioners

Blue Sheet No. 20070425

March 17, 2007

Agenda Item Summary

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:

Authorize Board Chair to sign a letter of commitment indicating Lee County will provide Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) \$2 million dollars to construct an expanded Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment facility; authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract for funding once prepared.

2. FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

3. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Provides Lee County general fund dollars in the amount of \$2 million to Southwest Florida Addiction Services to construct an expanded Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment facility in Lee County.

4. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approve as a one-time exception to the current Board policy of not providing capital funding to not-for-profit agencies.

5. Departmental Category: C5B

6. Meeting Date: APR 03 2007

7. Agenda:

- Consent
- Administrative
- Appeals
- Public
- Walk-On

8. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)

- Statute
- Ordinance
- Admin. Code
- Other

9. Request Initiated:

Commissioner _____
 Department Human Services
 Division _____
 By: Karen Hawes

10. Background:

At the March 12, 2007 Management and Planning meeting the Board voted to proceed with committing \$2 million of Lee County general fund revenue to Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) to construct an expanded Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment facility in Lee County. At this time, SWFAS is requesting a formal letter of commitment in order to secure financing for the project.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$10 million dollars. The City of Fort Myers donated property (4 acre parcel) on Evans Avenue where the facility will be located. SWFAS has secured over \$3 million in funding from sources such as the Federal government, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Foulds Foundation, Gannett Foundation, and private donors. A request has also been made to the Florida Legislature for \$1 million in State funds.

SWFAS does not anticipate needing to access funds until after October 1, 2007, therefore, a transfer from reserves will not be required at this time. SWFAS also anticipates drawing on the funding over an 18-24 month period while the facility is under construction. The Department of Human Services will request the money in the 07/08 budget.

Attachments: SWFAS memorandum dated February 19, 2007
 Letter of Commitment for signature

11. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services				County Manager/P. W. Director
					Analyst	Risk	Grants	Mgr.	
<i>[Signature]</i>	N/A	N/A		<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
					3/21/07	3/21/07	3/21/07	3/21/07	

12. Commission Action:

- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

RECEIVED BY
 COUNTY ADMIN: *[Signature]*
 3/21 9:45 AM
 3/21
 COUNTY ADMIN FORWARDED TO: *[Signature]*
 3/21 3pm

Rec. by CoAtty
 Date: 3/21/07
 Time: 9:20 AM
 Forwarded To:
 CAD 9:44 am

3/12 MSP

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ADDICTION SERVICES
SWFAS**

**2101 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 332-6937
(239) 332-6985 FAX
k_lewis@swfas.org**

**To: Commissioner Bob Janes, Chair
Lee County Commission**

**From: Kevin Lewis, Chief Executive Officer
SWFAS**

Kevin Lewis

Re: SWFAS Capital Funding Request

Date: February 19, 2007

SWFAS is asking support for capital funding in the amount of \$2 million from Lee County for an expanded Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment facility presently in the design phase. This facility, estimated to cost about \$10 million is critically needed to respond to the growing needs for access to substance abuse detoxification and treatment services. Presently there are over 50 individuals on the waiting list for detoxification services.

In 2004 SWFAS convened a multi-county Task Force to look at this issue which resulted in a number of recommendations, some of which have already been implemented. They included the following:

- Expand current capacity – in 2004 there were 17 Detoxification beds – with increased state support today there are 25 beds. The identified need in 2004 was for 56 beds.
- Charlotte County Detoxification Facility – the Charlotte County government has funded the construction of a new facility to be operated by the Charlotte County Behavioral Health Center – this will add 14 beds to serve Charlotte County, providing 1 bed for every 9,295 adults at risk.
- SWFAS is planning for a 40 bed expanded facility which was recommended by the Task Force – when this occurs and Charlotte's Detox comes on line, Lee's bed – adult ratio will be 1:11,545.

Making substance abuse treatment accessible is good fiscal policy. Studies of publicly funded treatment saves over \$7 for every \$1 spent. These cost-savings are in criminal justice and healthcare system costs. The community has increasing recognition of the need for expanded access to care, with the News Press hosting a Community Leader Forum and planning a series of articles next Sunday and Monday focusing on this issue.

SWFAS' Board has led expansion efforts which have included federal funding (\$1 million), strong support from the City of Fort Myers (contribution of the 4 acre site, valued at over \$1 million in the marketplace), and increased state operational funding (which allowed the current increase in capacity to 25 beds). To date SWFAS has raised over \$3 million toward this project from a variety of sources.

Lee County has been a long time partner in these efforts, and SWFAS is requesting a Capital contribution toward this project to allow it to move forward. I would like to discuss with you how to seek and gain this commitment from the Commission to allow our project to seek financing and move forward.



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

335-2224

Bob Janes
District One

A. Brian Bigelow
District Two

Ray Judah
District Three

Tammy Hall
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Donald D. Stilwell
County Manager

David M. Owen
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker
County Hearing Examiner

April 3, 2007

Kevin Lewis, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Inc.
2101 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This letter is to confirm that on April 3, 2007 the Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved \$2 million of Lee County ad valorem tax dollars for the construction of Southwest Florida Addiction Services expanded Detoxification and Outpatient Treatment facility.

The Lee County Department of Human Services staff will work with SWFAS in order to develop a contract to disburse the funds. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to partner with SWFAS to assist in meeting the needs of Lee County residents in need of substance abuse treatment.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Janes, Chair
Lee County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Karen Hawes, Director Department of Human Services

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