

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 23, 2001

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Anthony Conyers, Jr., Manager of Community Services

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan for Children and Youth

At the Board's September 26 work session, staff presented a draft of a Strategic Plan for Children and Youth. The vision of this Plan is:

All children and youth in our community will be valued as an asset, and as such, will be given every opportunity to grow up healthy, safe, and prepared for a positive future.

The Plan outlines goals and objectives for the next five years, and places emphasis on evaluation of youth programs. Staff is now seeking the Board's formal adoption of the Strategic Plan for Children and Youth.

If the Board adopts the Plan, there are a number of actions that staff plans to take before the end of this fiscal year. These actions include:

- ! Conduct a needs survey (yearly)
- ! Eliminate fees for children and youth at the James River Community Center
- ! Develop a plan whereby youth who volunteer their time to work in County programs will have fees for programs offset
- ! Improve significantly our public information efforts. This will include expanded use of cable television, the internet (especially the Youth Advisory Council's homepage), increased presence of staff going on-site to promote programs, and increasing publicity at sites that youth frequent such as schools, libraries, parks, theaters, and churches
- ! Provide access to the children of eligible County employees in the County's school age programs
- ! Work with the Schools to develop complimentary programs designed to improve test scores on the President's Physical Fitness Tests
- ! Work with hospital personnel to design programs that reduce the incidence of significant health problems such as Type I diabetes and asthma
- ! Provide tutorial programs on-site in County sponsored programs
- ! Expand community clubs and enrichment programs that develop positive life skills and career opportunities
- ! Provide discounts for County services to parents who agree to assist with programs, such as coaching athletic leagues
- ! Make available pregnancy prevention education materials in appropriate programs serving youth
- ! Design services to include parents in the learning process

There are also initiatives staff plan to propose in the upcoming FY 03-04 biennial budget. In general, these initiatives include actions that increase levels of service to youth where the Plan identifies gaps, and actions that improve access to existing programs. Staff also plans to make services to "at-risk" youth a priority when evaluating funding requests from outside agencies during the upcoming budget process.

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Staff recommends the Board adopt the Strategic Plan for Children and Youth.

Anthony Conyers, Jr.

AC/adw
youthplan.mem

Attachment