

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 11/14/07

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: CHAT Operational Agreement

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Approve the renewal of the Operational Agreement for the Child Abuse Treatment (CHAT) Program with the Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA).

DISCUSSION: Since May 12, 2005, the Human Services Agency and the Merced County Youth Council have had an Operational Agreement defining procedures in support of the Child Abuse Treatment (CHAT) program. The Youth Council and HSA will work together toward the mutual goal of providing maximum available assistance for child crime victims residing in Merced County.

The Agreement states that HSA will accept child client referrals from representatives from the Youth Council and will provide services to the youth and limited services to the non-offending parent if the referral involves domestic violence.

Human Services Agency is requesting that the Operational Agreement be renewed for the period of 10/1/07 through 9/30/10.

ATTACHMENT (S): Operational Agreement

CHILD ABUSE TREATMENT (CHAT) PROGRAM

OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN

Merced County Human Services Agency

and

Merced County Youth Council

This Operational Agreement (OA) stands as evidence the **Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA)** and the **Merced County Youth Council** intend to work together toward the mutual goal of providing maximum available assistance for child crime victims residing in **Merced County**. Both agencies believe the implementation of the **Child Abuse Treatment (CHAT) Program** will further this goal. To this end, the two agencies agree to participate in the exchange of services by coordinating the provision of **CHAT Program** objectives.

1. The **Merced County Youth Council** will closely coordinate the following services with the **Merced County Human Services Agency**:
 - The **Merced County Youth Council** will refer to the **Merced County CHAT Program** child victims of child abuse to include neglect, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, domestic violence, school and community violence, hate crimes, child abduction, children whose lives are victimized by parental substance abuse, high tech crimes against children, and runaway youth to obtain information and assist with filling and filing the Application for Crime Victim Compensation claim forms, explaining the procedure, obtaining required documentation, and tracking information related to the claim.
 - The **Merced County Youth Council** will refer to the **Merced County CHAT Program** child victims of child abuse to include neglect, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, domestic violence, school and community violence, hate crimes, child abduction, children whose lives are victimized by parental substance abuse, high tech crimes against children, and runaway youth for assisting them in understanding and participation in the criminal justice system/judicial proceedings as the result of a crime committed against the child.
2. The **Merced County Youth Council** will closely coordinate the following services with **Merced County Human Services Agency**:
 - The **Merced County CHAT Program** will receive referrals from the **Merced County Youth Council** of child victims of child abuse to include neglect, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, domestic violence, school and community violence, hate crimes, child abduction, children whose lives are victimized by parental substance abuse, high tech crimes against children, and runaway youth to provide them with information and assist with filling and filing the Application for Crime Victim Compensation claim forms, explaining the procedure, obtaining required documentation, and tracking information related to the claim.
 - In the event of a denial of the claim on behalf of the child victim, the **Merced County CHAT Program** shall provide assistance for an appeal with the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board.

- The **Merced County CHAT Program** will receive referrals from the **Merced County Youth Council** of child victims of child abuse to include neglect, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, domestic violence, school and community violence, hate crimes, child abduction, children whose lives are victimized by parental substance abuse, high tech crimes against children, and runaway youth for assistance in understanding and participation in the criminal justice system/judicial proceedings as the result of a crime committed against the child.
 - The **Merced County Youth Council** will refer to the **Merced County CHAT Program** child victims of child abuse to include neglect, sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, domestic violence, school and community violence, hate crimes, child abduction, children whose lives are victimized by parental substance abuse, high tech crimes against children, and runaway youth for treatment services to include crisis counseling and psychotherapy.
3. Regularly scheduled meetings between designated staff from the **Merced County Human Services Agency and the Merced County Youth Council** should be maintained to discuss strategies, timetables, and implementation of the Child Abuse Treatment Program services discussed herein.

This OA will begin **October 1, 2007** and end **September 30, 2010**.

We, the undersigned, as authorized representatives of **Merced County Human Services Agency and Merced County Youth Council**, do hereby approve this MOU.

Name and signature of person authorized to sign the CHAT Grant Award Agreement

Name and signature of person authorized to sign for the Merced County Youth Council

Name _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Date _____