## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 8 | **Name:** | Miranda Leskinen |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2017-0038 | **Date:** | February 22, 2017 |

**SUBJECT**

A Motion accepting a report on the Best Starts for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) LGBTQ[[1]](#footnote-1) awareness training contract, in accordance with the YFHPI Implementation Plan.

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Motion 2017-0038 would accept the Best Starts for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) LGBTQ Awareness Training Contract Report, as required by the YFHPI Implementation Plan, which describes the award details for RFP-1211-16-LSM relating to the provision of LGBTQ awareness training to agencies awarded funding to implement the services for the YFHPI. Of the four received RFP proposals, Revelry Media & Methods was selected to receive a contract in the amount of $10,000 to provide LGBTQ awareness training to agencies awarded funding to implement the services for the YFHPI, as a component of a three-day comprehensive YFHPI implementation training.

**BACKGROUND**

**Best Starts for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI)**

King County voters, in November 2015, approved the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) levy for the purpose of funding prevention and early intervention strategies to improve the health and well-being of children, youth, and their communities. Per Ordinance 18088, which submitted the BSK levy to the voters, $19 million of the first year levy proceeds was included to plan, provide, and administer a youth and family homelessness prevention initiative. According to Ordinance 18088, the intent of the Council and the Executive was “that funding for the YFHPI will allow the Initiative to be flexible, client-centered, and outcomes-focused and will provide financial support for community agencies to assist clients.” Additionally, Ordinance 18088 directed the County Executive to submit an implementation plan to the County Council by March 1, 2016 for approval relating to the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI).

YFHPI Implementation Plan. The YFHPI Implementation Plan was approved by Council on May 9, 2016 via Ordinance 18285, and subsequently updated on September 19, 2016 by Ordinance 18373. The Implementation Plan, as was required by Ordinance 18088, identified the strategies to be funded, and outcomes to be achieved, with the use of $19 million of Best Starts for Kids levy proceeds for the YFHPI.

With respect to program model for the YFHPI, the recommended approach identified in the YFHPI Implementation Plan aligns with a Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) Initiative pilot program, spanning September 2009 through September 2014, implemented by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Medina Foundation. As described in the YFHPI Implementation Plan, the YFHPI, like the DVHF pilot program, would include mobile case management based on progressive engagement[[2]](#footnote-2) and flexible financial assistance. In other words, the YFHPI would utilize an adaptable approach allowing services to be customized to the unique and specific needs of the client.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The YFHPI Implementation Plan included provisions aimed at fostering participation from a diversity of agencies in the YFHPI. Among these provisions was a requirement that the County provide LGBTQ awareness training[[4]](#footnote-4) to agencies awarded funding to implement the services for the YFHPI:

“During 2016, the County will expend up to $100,000 to contract with a consultant to provide targeted assistance on the Domestic Violence Housing First program model, LGBTQ awareness and to provide technical assistance to small organizations to help draft RFP responses.[[5]](#footnote-5) Training will be focused on small organizations, particularly those that serve disproportionately-affected populations, to help them prepare proposals that are responsive to the RFP. All successful bidders will receive training to implement the initiative with fidelity to the model as well as to understand what resources currently exist for families and youth so that connections can be made to those programs.”

With the aim of fulfilling the requirement for the provision of LGBTQ awareness training, RFP-1211-16-LSM was released on June 14, 2016, soliciting applications to hire trainers who would provide LGBTQ awareness training to agencies awarded funding through the BSK YFHPI services (funding) RFP.

Of note, the YFHPI Implementation Plan further required that, within six weeks after each RFP process under the YFHPI has been concluded, agencies and funding amounts have been determined, and contracts are signed, the Executive transmit a report to Council for acceptance, by Motion, listing the provider agencies to receive funding allocations, as well as the amount of funding allocated to each agency. The report that Proposed Motion 2017-0038 would accept responds to this requirement.

**ANALYSIS**

Proposed Motion 2017-0038 would accept the Best Starts for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative LGBTQ Awareness Training Contract Report (Report) that is required by the YFHPI Implementation Plan. The Report, in accordance with the YFHPI Implementation Plan, describes the award details for RFP-1211-16-LSM relating to the provision of LGBTQ awareness training to agencies awarded funding to implement the services for the YFHPI.

Four organizations[[6]](#footnote-6) responded to RFP-1211-16-LSM. Of the four submitted RFP proposals, Revelry Media & Methods was selected to receive a contract in the amount of $10,000 to provide LGBTQ awareness training to agencies awarded funding to implement the services for the YFHPI, as a component of a three-day comprehensive YFHPI implementation training. DCHS concluded the RFP process for technical assistance funding on September 9, 2016, and the contract (January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017) was signed on January 11, 2017. On January 27, 2017, a report identifying the provider agency selected to receive funding, and the amount of funding allocated to the selected agency, was transmitted by the Executive to Council with a motion (Proposed Motion 2017-0038) to accept the report, in fulfilment of the requirement of the YFHPI Implementation Plan.

The submitted proposals, all of which met eligibility criteria, were reviewed by an eight-member application review panel (Panel), including three Council district staff members. [[7]](#footnote-7) Per the recommendation of the Panel, the top two scoring applicants were then interviewed by DCHS staff. As noted in the Report, Revelry Media & Methods received the award based on a recommendation derived from a combination of the Panel application review scores and interview scores. Agency staff indicate that Revelry Media & Methods is contracted to provide two, half-day trainings and four, two-hour learning circle refresher trainings. Agency staff further indicate that the first half-day training was scheduled for February 14, 2017.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**AMENDMENT**

There are amendments. Striking Amendment S1 would make technical adjustments to reflect that the Best Starts for Kids Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) Implementation Plan was updated on September 19, 2016 by Ordinance 18373. Additionally, Striking Amendment S1 would attach a revised Attachment A, dated February 22, 2017, to Proposed Motion 2017-0038. Title amendment T1 would correct the title of the proposed motion to conform to the motion as amended by Striking Amendment S1.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2017-0038, with Attachment A to Proposed Motion 2017-0038
2. Executive’s Transmittal Letter, dated January 27, 2017
3. Striking Amendment S1, with Attachment A to Proposed Motion 2017-0038, dated February 22, 2017
4. Title Amendment T1

**INVITED**

1. Josephine Wong, Deputy Director, Department of Community and Human Services
2. Kim Dodds, Project-Program Manager, Homeless Housing Program, Department of Community and Human Services
1. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, progressive engagement is a nationally-recognized best practice that provides customized levels of assistance to participants, providing the services needed, but not more than is needed to achieve housing stability. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Of note, YFHPI program eligibility is intended for youth and families who are at imminent risk of homelessness, whereas individuals who have already become homeless would be served through the homeless services system. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Nationally, while less than 7 percent of the youth population identify as LGBTQ, approximately 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGTBQ. Findings from the Count Us In 2016 survey data indicate that 27 percent of homeless and unstably housed youth in King County identify as LGBTQ (*#40toNoneDay*, All Home Weekly News, April 27, 2016; Count Us In 2016 Report, March 2016, page 10). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. YFHPI Implementation Plan, Updated September 19, 2016, page 21. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Proposals were submitted from Health Management Associates, The Northwest Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, ProBiz Associates, and Revelry Media & Methods. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Up to three Council district staff, per councilmember designation and Chair approval, were allowed serve on each RFP scoring panel for the YFHPI. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. It was announced in December 2016 that twenty-seven community-based nonprofit agencies were each awarded $150,000, totaling approximately $4 million, in YFHPI services funding. A list of the twenty-seven agencies selected is available at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2016/December/15-launch-best-starts-for-kids.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)