



## **Bill Horn**

**SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** March 11, 2003

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** FAITH IN ACTION: MAXIMIZING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S FAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (District: All)

#### **SUMMARY:**

##### **Overview**

In 1998, the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency began the Faith Community Partnership Initiative in response to the Charitable Choice provisions of the 1996 welfare reform legislation. Charitable Choice originated with the introduction of Sec. 104 in the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996 H.R. 3734. The purpose of Sec. 104 is to allow states to contract with charitable, religious or private organizations, when the state enters into purchase of service agreements or voucher arrangements with non-governmental organizations under temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).

One of the first things President George W. Bush did after taking office in 2001 was to sign an Executive Order giving greater emphasis to faith-based and community initiatives. On February 18, 2003, the White House Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives held a conference with San Diego's Faith-Based Community Service Organizations. San Diego County has experienced highly successful and demonstrable outcomes as a result of its Faith Community Partnership Initiative.

In the 2003 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush expressed support for expanding the faith-based and community initiatives by asking Congress for four hundred and fifty million dollars to fund social services. The County of San Diego has a proven track record in partnering with the faith-based community as a means of delivering services. San Diego County was one of the first in the nation to bring Faith Coordinators on staff to mobilize local faith communities to provide leadership, facilities and resources to meet the many diverse needs of their communities.

San Diego County has developed a cutting edge model for delivering services through faith-based and community partnerships. In anticipation of new Federal funding for faith-based services, the County of San Diego needs the services of a Temporary Expert

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Professional to develop a plan for maximizing federal funding and to expand services already offered by the Faith community as well as new services which would include, but not be limited to such things as Parks and Recreation programs for youth, Libraries, after school programs, support for foster youth transitioning into independent adulthood, homeless shelters, emergency aide, and domestic violence. The position would be contingent on securing matching funds from the federal government. This position would be unique as it would be the first of its kind in the nation and would be responsible for sharing San Diego County's model with others.

In this time of budget crisis, the ability to draw down additional federal funding for the delivery of social services is crucial. The State of California has made deep cuts in the area of Health and Human Services, leaving many children and families without the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. The maximization of federal funding available for faith-based initiatives will help to ease the loss of state funding and the cutting back of essential services to this population.

**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR HORN:**

Direct the Chief Administrative officer to determine a contract amount and identify a funding source for a Temporary Expert Professional whose responsibilities would include maximizing Faith-based and community initiatives and partnerships, and identify federal funding to support the initiatives and partnerships, and report back to the Board within sixty days.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Business Impact Statement**

None

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The partnering of San Diego County with the Faith Community has been truly innovative. In 1996, partly at the behest of Supervisor Bill Horn and the County Board of Supervisors, Congress integrated language into the Welfare Reform legislation that included the concept of Charitable Choice. Beginning in 1998, the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency began the Faith Community Partnership Initiative.

Interfaith networks began to develop where public resources and private services could be brought to the neighborhood level. The Health and Human Services Agency began to include faith communities in Agency activities to promote and support individuals, children and families who were receiving services from HHSA.

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This initiative has achieved true partnership between government and the Faith community. The Faith Community Partnership Initiative includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: increasing foster care families; support for foster care families; increasing adoptive families; job training programs; job readiness classes; mentoring youth and CalWORK recipients; tutoring youth; homework clubs in elementary schools; literacy programs; child care; assistance for the homeless; educational workshop for clergy in domestic violence and youth violence prevention; parenting classes, and more.

In July of 2001, Supervisor Bill Horn hosted members of the Focus on the Family ministry who became aware of the County's innovative faith partnerships and visited North San Diego County's Green Oak Ranch, site of CANN (Children's Assessment Network North); Casa de Amparo children's home; and Straight from the Heart, a thrift store and training center for foster parents and potential foster parents developed and run by the North County Foster Parents Association. Focus on the Family is interested in looking at ways to partner with San Diego County and the San Diego Faith community to bring much needed services to the region. Ron Bissonette of Focus on the Family recommended that Supervisor Horn invite members of the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force to San Diego to see first-hand the innovative and successful Faith Community Partnership Initiative created by the County. Mr. Bissonette recommended that the San Diego County model be shared with other counties around the country.

North San Diego County has been particularly diligent and innovative in its development of Faith-based partnerships for the delivery of services.

The mission of the Health and Human Services Agency is "Building Healthier and Safer Communities that Strengthen Individuals and Families." Such a mission cannot be accomplished without the involvement of those who touch the lives of our community members each day – the faith community.

Respectfully submitted,

BILL HORN  
Supervisor, Fifth District

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**CONCURRENCE(S)**

<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**Other Concurrence(s):** N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** BOS

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**  
(continued)

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

N/A

**CONTRACT NUMBER(S):**

N/A

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**DEPARTMENT:** N/A  
**PROGRAM:** N/A  
**PROPOSAL:** N/A

	FUTURE YEARS ESTIMATED BUDGET OF PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year
Direct Cost					
Revenue/Other Offset					
<b>NET GENERAL FUND COST</b>					
Staff Years					

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Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

**Space-Related Impacts:** Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements?  Yes  N/A

**Support/Other Departmental Impacts:**  Yes  N/A

**Remarks:**  Yes  N/A