COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Board of Commissioners
Meeting Date:	Thursday, August 15, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Recognition of Clerk of Juvenile Court Kathleen Cunningham for her work in obtaining a $59,800 grant under the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant Program with the Justice Division.

Background/History/Details:

The Fayette County Board of Commissioners has recently received word from the Governor's Office for Children and Families that the county will be awarded a $59,800 grant under the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant Program with the Justice Division.

The grant funding will underwrite an innovative therapeutic diversion program used to divert juveniles entering the juvenile justice system or to prevent further involvement in the system. The program will promote a positive relationship between youth, their family and community, and reduce recidivism.

Furthermore, the proposed evidenced-based curriculum that will be utilized for the program is called "Thinking for a Change" (T4C), concentrating on changing the criminogenic thinking of young offenders.

The Fayette County Board of Commissioners is extremely proud of the recognition that its colleagues in the Juvenile Court, including the Clerk of Juvenile Court Kathleen Cunningham,have received for their efforts in finding ways to help young people avoid entry into the juvenile justice center.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Present Clerk of Juvenile Court Kathleen Cunningham with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work in obtaining a $59,800 grant under the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant Program with the Justice Division.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

Contact: **County Clerk Floyd Jones**
Phone: **770-305-5102**
Email: **fjones@fayettecountyga.gov**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fayette County Receives $59,800 Grant to Aid Juvenile Court in Helping Local Youth

Fayette County, Georgia, August 5, 2013 – The Fayette Board of Commissioners recently received word from the Governor's Office for Children and Families that the county government will be awarded a $59,800 grant under the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant Program with the Justice Division.

"Our entire board is extremely proud of the recognition that our colleagues in the Juvenile Court have received for their efforts in finding ways to help our young people avoid entry into the juvenile justice system," said Chairman Steve Brown.

The grant funding will underwrite an innovative therapeutic diversion program used to divert juveniles entering the juvenile justice system or to prevent further involvement in the system. The program will promote a positive relationship between youth, their family and their community, and reduce recidivism.

The proposed evidenced-based curriculum that will be utilized for the program is called Thinking for a Change (T4C), concentrating on changing the criminogenic thinking of young offenders.

T4C combines cognitive restructuring theory and cognitive skills theory to help individuals take control of their lives by taking control of their thinking and striving toward better outcomes.

T4C stresses interpersonal communication skills development and confronts thought patterns that can lead to problematic behaviors. The program has three components: cognitive self-change, social skills, and problem-solving skills.

Lessons on cognitive self-change provide participants with a thorough process for self-reflection concentrated on uncovering antisocial thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and beliefs.

Social skills lessons prepare participants to engage in pro-social interactions based on self-understanding and awareness of the impact that their actions may have on others.

Finally, problem-solving skills integrate the two other components and provide participants with a step-by-step process to address challenges and stressful situations they may encounter.

The program is divided into 25 modules and each module lasts between one to two hours in duration. The curriculum is implemented with small groups of 8 to 12 participants.

Each lesson teaches important social skills (such as active listening and asking appropriate questions) as well as more complex restructuring techniques (such as recognizing the types of thinking that get them into trouble and understanding the feelings of others). Most sessions include didactic instruction, role-play illustrations of concepts, a review of previous lessons, and homework assignments in which participants practice the skills learned in the group lesson.

In addition to the implementation of the T4C evidence based program, the Fayette County Juvenile Court will work with various community resources to ensure youth and families also have access to

needed mental health, addictive disease, life skills, educational, mentoring, and health support services.

“This award will allow the Juvenile Court to continue to serve our community by providing programs for troubled or delinquent youth who are in need of direction and supervision,” said Judge Ben Miller, Jr. “These services are designed to promote a positive relationship between our youth, their families and the community so that the young adults can be independent, self-sufficient members of society.”

Fayette Juvenile Court and Fayette Department of Juvenile Justice staff will identify existing, local providers that already provide many of these services themselves and have linkages with other providers in the community to which they can quickly link youth in the program.

Dr. Kevin Free of Grace Harbour, Inc., Program Manager Helen Trouth of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Clerk of Juvenile Court Katie Cunningham, Associate Judge Karen Calloway along with Judge Miller were instrumental in securing the grant for Fayette County.

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FAYETTE COUNTY

Certificate of Appreciation

is hereby granted to

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM

Your attention to detail, commitment of time and outstanding work ethic has afforded us the opportunity to serve troubled and delinquent youth in Fayette County, through the Juvenile Court system with the award from the Juvenile Reinvestment Grant.

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 15, 2013

Steve Brown, Chairman