



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
County Manager's Office



**Date:** January 6, 2017

**Board Meeting Date:** January 24, 2017

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None

**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager

**Subject:** Students With Amazing Goals (SWAG) program evaluation agreement

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University for analysis of the outcomes of the Students With Amazing Goals (SWAG) program.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 12, 2015, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) approved approximately \$2.6 million in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (Byrne JAG) funding to the County of San Mateo for the implementation of a 34-month truancy prevention and high school graduation supportive services program in the City of East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park (March 2015-December 2017). Statistics show a much lower graduation rate for youth living in these areas, as well higher rates of 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors, suspensions and higher absence rates, than in other areas of the County. The Community Vulnerability Index developed as part of the community asset mapping for the future prioritization of Measure K funding indicates that only 65 to 66 percent of adults in East Palo Alto census have a high school diploma or higher. Thus, nearly 33 to 34 percent of adults in the area lack a high school diploma. Studies also show that lower educational levels lead to greater involvement in criminal justice, behavioral health and child welfare systems.

**DISCUSSION:**

The SWAG program was created to help address the reality that a significant number of young people from East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park are at-risk of not completing high school because of low grades, poor attendance, disciplinary/behavior issues, and credit deficiencies. SWAG's goal, however, is not simply to help youth get through school, but to use a holistic approach to promote and develop life skills that will help guide them to success in school and a positive life path. The short term outcomes that will develop these life skills include developing youth

assets, positive behavior patterns and academic engagement and improvement. The SWAG strategy includes five core Program Supports and interventions that support these short term and long term outcomes: 1) Case Management and Advocacy; 2) Academics; 3) Pro-Social Activities; 4) Career and Leadership Development; and 5) Skill Building and Enrichment Opportunities. The program, which is overseen by the County Manager's Office (CMO) and serves an average of 80 youth per year, is located at 763 Green Street in East Palo Alto, a site formerly used as an alternative high school by the Sequoia Union High School District. Partnering with the County in this endeavor are the Sequoia Union High School District who has dedicated one teacher to the site, the Probation Department that has assigned a full-time Deputy Program Officer, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services that is helping to provide mental health services through its East Palo Alto contract with Health Right 360.

Live In Peace (LIP), an East Palo Alto-based non-profit, is under contract with the County until December 31, 2017 to run the day-to-day operations of the SWAG program. In addition, and since SWAG's inception, the CMO has engaged the services of the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and their Communities at Stanford University to help with the program's implementation and final evaluation. After completing a Theory of Change and Year One Implementation Research Report under a recently concluded contract, the new contract with the Gardner Center will focus on the development of a Year Two Implementation Research Report and an Outcomes Research Report in Year Three. The Outcomes Research Report, which will determine whether or not the overall program was effective in meeting the program goals and is required as part of the grant, will be submitted to the BSCC by the March 2018 deadline.

County Counsel has reviewed the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 of a Prosperous Community by providing the County's most at-risk youth with the supportive services they need to improve school attendance and academic success, graduate from high school and promote their overall success in life.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

Measure	FY 2015-16 Actual	FY 2016-17 Projected
Completion of Year One Deliverables	100	NA
Completion of Year Two Deliverables	NA	100
Completion of Year Three Deliverables	NA	100

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the agreement is June 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018 in amount not to exceed \$150,000. Funding for this contract is being provided through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant.