



TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
Vicki L. Sprague, Senior Research Consultant 

Requested Action

The Board is requested to approve the award of a contract to Rowlette Research Associates, Inc. to conduct a three year research project titled "Alternatives for Children in Crisis: Planning and Implementation." The maximum amount to be awarded in FY 2000-01 is \$8,000. If the request is approved, the contract will be continued for a maximum award of \$36,500 in FY 2001-02 and up to \$27,375 in FY 2002-03, subject to the TRIM (Truth in Millage) process.

Options

1. Approve the request
2. Deny the request
3. Any other action as determined by the Board

Recommended Action

Allocate up to \$8,000 in FY 2000-01, up to \$36,500 in FY 2001-02, and up to \$27,375 in FY 2002-03 to Rowlette Research Associates, Inc. for a three-year project titled "Alternatives for Children in Crisis: Planning and Implementation."

Source of JWB Funds

FY 2000-01 Research and Evaluation Unallocated Funds and FY 2001-02 and 2002-03 Research and Evaluation Allocated Funds, subject to the TRIM (Truth in Millage) process.

Fiscal Impact

The FY 2000-01 Research and Evaluation Unallocated Fund would be reduced by \$8,000 from \$119,180 to \$111,180. The FY 2001-02 Research and Evaluation Allocated budget would be reduced by \$36,500 from \$80,000 to \$43,500. The FY 2002-03 Research and Evaluation Allocated budget would be reduced by \$27,375.

Narrative

At a regular Board meeting on March 8, 2001, JWB approved funding (\$365,504 annually) of the Alternatives for Children in Crisis program (ACC). The ACC program will operate in a capacity building phase through June 30, 2003 and will be eligible for continuation funding upon receiving A.S.S.E.T. certification and meeting established program goals and objectives. This program, operated by Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS), Directions for Mental Health (Directions), and Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health (SCCMH), is designed to intervene in situations where young children are experiencing a behavioral or emotional crisis that could ultimately escalate into a referral to the Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center (PJAC) and subsequent juvenile justice system involvement or to the

Children's Crisis and Screening Unit (CSSU). As part of this funding, JWB also approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a consultant to conduct an independent evaluation of this program. Four applicants submitted proposals for this project:

- Rowlette Research Associates (Recommended)
Total JWB Cost: \$71,875 (\$8,000 FY 2000-01; \$36,500 FY 2001-02; \$27,375 FY 2002-03).
- CLS & Associates (Not Recommended)
Total JWB Cost: \$71,875 (\$8,000 FY 2000-01; \$36,500 FY 2001-02; \$27,375 FY 2002-03).
- Dewey & Associates (Not Recommended)
Total JWB Cost: \$71,875 (\$8,000 FY 2000-01; \$36,500 FY 2001-02; \$27,375 FY 2002-03).
- Analytica (Not Recommended)
Total JWB Cost: \$71,500

A proposal review team comprised of both JWB staff and program representatives reviewed the proposals. After careful consideration of all available information, the review team reached consensus with regard to the selection of Rowlette Research Associates, Inc. as the candidate to recommend for the award of this contract. The review team selected the proposal submitted by Rowlette Research Associates, Inc. for the following reasons:

- The candidate included a clear plan for confidentiality of information and protection of human subjects, including the IRB (Internal Review Board) process to be used.
- The proposed research strategies are appropriate to the issues outlined in the RFP and consistent with relevant research.
- The candidate identified research questions that are consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the RFP.
- The proposed methods and analytical techniques are appropriate to answer the research questions.
- The proposal presents a method for including both qualitative and quantitative data sources.
- The candidate's former project experience is relevant to the current project and samples of work products are of good quality.

The following products will be completed during this project:

- A descriptive report during FY 2000-01 of the ACC program, including program components and activities and a description of the implementation process.
- A research design that specifies short term and long term indicators to measure effectiveness of the program and a plan to collect and analyze related data.
- Measurement tools and methods for data collection and analysis.
- An interim report during FY 2001-02 on preliminary findings about effectiveness, based on a review of existing data, observations, key-informant interviews, and piloting of the research design. This report will also include copies of all data collection instruments and analysis protocols.
- A report due at the end of FY 2001-02 that includes conclusions about effectiveness and benefits of the program to date.
- A report due on June 30, 2003 that includes conclusions about program effectiveness that are based on a synthesis of both qualitative and quantitative data sources, conclusions about the impact of the program on key community stakeholders, recommendations for continued and enhanced collaboration with community agencies, and recommendations for program refinement and expansion.

Staff Resource Persons: Maridelys Detres and Gary Cernan