


Agenda Item

DATE: MARCH 4, 2025 - 10:30 A.M.

TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: TERENCE T. QUINN, AICP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 

CC: STEVEN M. DODRILL, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR
RAND M. CLARK, CCAP, NCRT, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER
JENNIFER L. EBY, AICP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFEHOUSE OPERATOR

BACKGROUND

In 2023, Douglas County commissioned a Domestic Violence Needs Assessment (Assessment) to better understand the needs of individuals and families experiencing DV. Increased physical safety and improved access to housing were identified as the top priorities by survey respondents.

On November 5, 2024, the County purchased a facility currently used to provide DV shelter services with the goal of increasing its capacity to serve victims. The County's DV safehouse aims to provide a safe, inclusive environment with 22 beds, able to accommodate large families and pets. The safehouse will offer structured stays of up to seven weeks and provide trauma-informed transitional services, including therapy, legal advocacy, and case management. While the County will provide financial support for the initial startup costs and first year of operations, the selected provider will be expected to secure additional funding through grants, Medicaid billing, and donations.

DISCUSSION

In October 2024, a Request for Information (RFI) was released to identify a service provider to operate the domestic violence (DV) safehouse in Douglas County. The RFI outlined project goals and requirements identified in the Assessment including licensing, 24/7 emergency availability, trained staff, and comprehensive support services. Responses to the RFI were received from Tessa and Lifelong, which were evaluated based on variety of factors including experience, service offerings, and cost-effectiveness.

An evaluation committee comprised of staff from Human Services, Community Development, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office reviewed both proposals. Tessa's proposal earned the higher score of 95.2, compared to Lifelong's score of 72.6. Tessa stood out for their extensive experience in managing DV safehouses, comprehensive

program offerings, and strong partnerships with law enforcement and community organizations. Tessa's proposal aligns with the County's vision by offering a cost-efficient option without compromising the quality or scope of services.

Tessa is prepared to present an overview of their proposal for the Board of County Commissioners consideration.