

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Sitting/Acting as (if applicable)**  
**Policy Session Worksheet**

**Presentation Date:** 5/8/18    **Approx. Start Time:** 1:30 pm    **Approx. Length:** 30 min

**Presentation Title:** Resolution Services fee increase request

**Department:** Resolution Services

**Presenters:** Lauren Mac Neill

**Other Invitees:** Margaret Sanger

**WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?**

Approve request to increase fees for professional dispute resolution and skill development services from \$100 to \$125 per hour.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Many of our services are made available at no charge through court-connected mediation programs, grants from state agencies, and other agreements with fixed third-party payment structures. Funding from many of these sources is flat or declining, while personnel and other basic business costs are increasing. As part of our sustainable funding strategy, CCRS proposes to increase our general program fee for services of counseling, facilitation and mediation from \$100 to \$125 per hour, and adjusting all other fees based on this rate accordingly. See attached.

The current \$100 per hour rate was approved in 2014. The previous rate was \$90 since 2009.

As we widen our revenue base to include additional fee-based services for county departments, other government agencies, area businesses and individuals seeking our services, this additional revenue will help offset flat funding.

The range of fees charged by private mediators in our tri-county area range from \$100 plus travel to \$450 per hour.

This increase will allow Resolution Services to continue operating at present staffing levels as we explore operational and other efficiencies to streamline our functions and expand our revenue-generating service offerings in future years.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

Is this item in your current budget?     YES     NO

What is the cost? None

What is the funding source?

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?
  - Generates an additional \$13,850 in anticipated revenue for FY19. By expanding our revenue generating capability we can maintain our current operations and

allow opportunities for service expansion, making our services more widely known and available to the community.

- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?
  - Resolution Services provides conflict resolution and skill development services that help ensure safe, healthy and secure communities by assisting people and organizations in conflict an opportunity to resolve their differences peacefully and cooperatively, and to develop skills to manage, resolve and avoid conflict on their own in their workplaces, schools, communities and families.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

- n/a

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

We reviewed this proposed fee increase with our advisory committee and the presiding circuit court judge and both indicated their support for our proposal.

**OPTIONS:**

Keep fees flat:            Pro – will not increase costs for parties paying to use our services  
                                  Con – this option will result in a projected budget deficit of \$13,850 for FY19, requiring us to consider reducing or eliminating staff or requesting additional funds from county administration to maintain our current operations. We have reduced our services and supplies budget to a bare minimum already. Further reductions there will impact our ability to do our work effectively. This will reduce the positive financial impact of additional work.

Increase fees less:        Pro – will decrease our projected budget shortfall, will increase costs for parties paying to use our services  
                                  Con – will still result in a projected budget shortfall, requiring us to reduce staff or request additional funds from county administration to maintain our current operations.

Increase fees as proposed:  
                                  Pro - will result in a balanced projected budget for FY19  
                                  Con – increases costs for parties paying to use our services

Increase fees more:  
                                  Pro – generates more revenue for FY19, allowing reduced contribution from county administration  
                                  Con - increases costs more for parties paying to use our services. Increases the likelihood of pushback or disgruntled clients.

Reduce staff:  
                                  Pro – reduces expenditures  
                                  Con – reduces our ability to provide services required of (some of our services are court mandated) or requested by our clients.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend that the board adopt our proposed fee increase. While this increase does not approach market rate or full cost recovery for our services, it is a modest movement toward that rate.

If this recommendation is implemented, some parties paying to use our services may be disgruntled at the increase in costs.

If the recommendation is not implemented, we may have to re-prioritize our services in favor of revenue-generating work, which may also result in disgruntled clients.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Proposed fee schedule changes
- Resolution Services Fee rates 1995 - present

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Margaret Sanger @ 503-650-5655
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Description	Authorizing Legislation	ORS auth. fee	Fee set by ORS	Code auth. Fee	Current FEE amount	Proposed FEE amount	Comparables	Reason for change
<b>FAMILY COURT RESOLUTION SERVICES</b>								Update department name to reflect merger of Family Court Services and Community Dispute Resolution Services
Marriage License Fee	ORS 107.615		x		\$10	no change		
<del>Response for: Dissolution; Annulment; Legal Separation; Custody, Parenting Time or Support of a Child; or Filiation.</del>	<del>ORS 21.111(1)-21.112; see also 107.085; 109.124-109.230; 109.103</del>		<del>x</del>		<del>\$150</del>	remove		no longer relevant
Resolution Services - general program services of counseling, facilitation and mediation	Code §1.01.090			x	<del>\$100 per hour</del>	\$125 per hour	\$0 - \$450	Many services are provided at no cost to participants - please see attached materials for more information. This change brings charges for paid services closer to actual cost recovery while still providing affordable services for most income ranges.
Family Law Education Programs - Parent education program	ORS 3.425		x		<del>\$75 per class; discounted to \$55 if parties register within 15 days after petitioner's filing or respondent's receiving service--</del>	\$75 per class: no discount	Multnomah County \$70 Washington County \$267 for four class series	Change in structure and online registration render this less relevant. This change also streamlines administrative and accounting functions
<del>Family law clinic</del> -Family Law Education Classes	ORS 3.425		x		<del>\$50 per session</del>	\$30		Change fee and update terminology to distinguish between class fees and consultation fees. Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
Family law clinic	ORS 3.425				<del>\$100 per hour for consultation</del>	\$125		Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
Advanced Internship Training	<del>ORS 3.425</del>				\$2,000 per academic year	CJO 05-028		correct legal reference
Domestic Relations Mediation Training	Code §1.01.090			x	<del>\$1,000 per 40-hour training, discounted to \$1,750 per training for any party who elects to take two trainings together</del>	\$1,250		Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
Training	Code §1.01.090			x				
- participant fee					<del>\$25</del> per hour for each participant	\$30		Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
- Trainer fee					<del>\$100</del> per hour for class	\$125		Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
Fee for Cost of Clinical Supervision Towards Licensure	Code §1.01.090			x	<del>\$100</del> per hour for individual supervision; <del>\$25</del> per hour for group supervision	\$125/30		Adjusting department fees to reflect \$125/hour base hourly service rate.
Small claims mediation	Code §1.01.090					no change		
- Claim is \$2500 or less					\$50 per side			
- Claim is \$2500 to \$10,000					\$90 per side			

**Clackamas County Family Court Services  
DR and PEd Client Fee Rates to Present**

Fiscal Year	DR Client Hourly Fee Rates	Ped Client Regular Hourly Fee Rates	Ped Client Discount Hourly Fee Rates	Info source & comments
1995-96	40	?	na	DR rate per yellow post-it in 07 Fee Increase Proposal folder that says "\$40/hr fees since 1996"; possibly LMM handwriting.
1996-97	same	?	na	
1997-98	same	35	na	PEd \$35 rate this yr per comments in Revenue Collection % 97-98.xls
1998-99		40	na	PEd increase to \$40 eff 1/1/99 per comments in Revenue Collection % 97-98.xls; increase (but not amt) confirmed in Annual Report comments.
1999-00	same	same	na	
2000-01	same	same	na	
2001-02	same	same	na	
2002-03	60	45	na	Annual Report says DR increased from \$40 to \$60/hr after the "free series".
2003-04	same	same	na	1st DR increase in 7 yrs per FCS Fee Policies folder, hard copy Notice to Clients: Fee changes eff 7/1/03. DR payment plan minimum is \$10 per person per hour
2004-05	same	same	na	
2005-06	same	same	na	
2006-07	same	same	na	
2007-08	80	60	45	DR & PEd increases per DR client notification sign in office (see Admin/genl ofc/signs
2008-09	same	same	same	
2009-10	90	70	55	Per Study Session Presentation to BCC 3/31/09 for Additional Fees and Fee Increases
2010-11	same	same	same	Requested indexed increase for DR over 4 yr period fy11 thru fy15
2011-12	same	same	same	
2012-13	same	same	same	
2013-14	same	same	same	
2014-15	100	same	same	Fees standardized this FY into a few categories.
2015-16	same	same	same	
2016-17	same	75	dropped	Per Study Session Presentation to BCC ~5/16/16
2017-18	same	same	same	
2018-19	125	same	same	proposed at Study Session Presentation to BCC 5/8/18