

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Accepting the Report) RESOLUTION
"Hispanics and Multnomah County Services")
and Developing an Implementation Plan) 90-174

WHEREAS, County Commissioner Pauline Anderson commissioned Martin Winch to research Hispanic issues and County services and recommend how the County could improve services to Hispanics.

WHEREAS, the report, "Hispanics and Multnomah County Services" includes extensive information concerning how some selective Multnomah County services are provided to Hispanics. That information includes the following data:

- Hispanics are the second largest and the fastest growing minority in Multnomah County. They are the largest minority group in Oregon.

- During June, 1990, Hispanics used 19% of the total capacity of jail bed days - approximately 200 beds. Those on INS holds accounted for 12% of the total bed days.

- Most jailed Hispanics are held on charges involving distribution or possession of drugs. Approximately 85% of these people have limited previous involvement with the criminal justice system. They are among the least disruptive and dangerous of our inmates.

- County health clinics are serving 44% more Hispanics in 1989-90 than they did in 1988-89.

WHEREAS, the report listed numerous policy and administrative recommendations concerning:

- how County government can make a commitment to becoming truly multi-cultural in its makeup and expertise.

- how County jails could more appropriately serve the public safety needs of Hispanic and non-Hispanics alike.

- how County human services could more effectively serve Hispanics.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners accepts the report "Hispanics and Multnomah County Services".

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests the Chair, Sheriff, and District Attorney develop plans to implement recommendations in the report as prescribed by the BCC. Those plans should indicate increased costs, if needed, and timelines.

Among the areas that should be addressed in the plans are:

- adequate social service support for inmates placed on pre or post trial supervision, including pursuit of employment waivers (DCC).

- adequate youth and juvenile services (DHS).

- adequate health services and outreach, including clinic capacity for migrants in East County (DHS).

- pre and post trial supervision programs with bilingual and culturally sensitive staff (DCC).

- billing procedures between County and INS, including numbers on who would be released but for the INS holds (Auditor /Finance/Sheriff).

- INS facility for pre-trial releasees on INS holds (Sheriff)

- aggressively rethink job requirements to attract more bilingual, culturally sensitive county employees (DGS).

- centralized recruiting of bilingual applicants, especially for the new correction officers and community health nurses. Consider a long term focus that will extend recruiting to high schools and community colleges (DGS).

- multi cultural training for current county employees (DGS).

- review of RFP requirements to insure that providers have bilingual, culturally sensitive employees to the extent feasible (DGS).

- impact of not using "scheme or network" charges for Old Town drug arrests on jail population (District Attorney)

- intergovernmental concerns

- sweep policy in Old Town (with Portland)

- SLEAG funding (with Congressional delegation)

- INS policies (Sheriff with INS)

- health services (with Clackamas County)

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will review those implementation plans in March, 1991, prior to the development of the 1991-2 budget.



ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1990.
(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Gladys McCoy*
Gladys McCoy, Chair

REVIEWED

for John L. DeBay
Laurence Kressel, County Counsel

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