AGENDA TITLE:

Disbursement of Marriage License Fees for domestic violence programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Board pass a resolution authorizing disbursement of marriage license fees to include Safe House in Oakhurst at the following rate:

- Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center 10%
- Safe House, Oakhurst 90%

See attached information sheet.

HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

81-213 - All funds disbursed to Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center, Inc., Sonora

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

All funds will continue to go to Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. All funds go to Mother Lode Crisis Center, Inc., Sonora
2. All funds go to Safe House, Oakhurst

COSTS: ( ) Not Applicable
A. Budgeted current F.Y. $ __________
B. Total anticipated costs $ __________
C. Required Add'l. Funding $ __________
D. Source: __________

SOURCE: ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required
A. Other budgeted funds $ __________
B. Unanticipated revenues $ __________
C. Reserve for contingencies $ __________
D. Other: __________
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies if Approved: $ __________

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

This Item on Agenda As:
Recommended
Not Recommended
For Policy Determination
Submitted with Comment
Returned for Further Action
A.O. Initials ☑️
ATTACHMENT TO RESOLUTION FOR 10-24-89
DISBURSEMENT OF MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES

John McCamman, Administrative Officer, received a letter from Safe House in Oakhurst, requesting that they be allowed to receive marriage license fees designated for victims of domestic violence (see attached letter). Currently all of our marriage license fees are being sent to Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center in Sonora.

In checking with my social work staff, I found that social workers referred 158 clients to Safe House in the past year. In addition, after checking with Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center we found that they had served only 8 Mariposa residents', who had self-referred, at their facility.

It is my recommendation that 90% of the marriage license fees go to Safe House and that 10% go to Mother Lode Women's Crisis Center.
Safe House Family Crisis Center
P.O. Box 1658
Oakhurst, CA 93644

John McCamman
Mariposa County Administrative Officer
Courthouse
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338

September 18, 1989

Dear Mr. McCamman,

This letter is an introduction to the Safe House Family Crisis Center in Oakhurst. Although the Safe House is primarily a domestic violence program, services are provided for many types of family crisis: child abuse, elder/dependent abuse, teen crisis. The Safe House has been providing services to Mariposa County since June 1988. Through Mariposa County Protective Services and word of mouth, Mariposa residents now account for approximately 30% of our caseload.

Shared Ministries, a non-profit, public benefit corporation and the primary social service provider in Eastern Madera County, is the umbrella organization under which Safe House functions. The idea for Shared Ministries originated with the establishment of Manna House in March 1983. The Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce, local pastors, and several community members recognized a need for an emergency services clearinghouse where food, shelter, clothing and other provisions could be centralized. In 1985, the organization was incorporated as Shared Ministries of Eastern Madera County. A needs assessment was conducted and Shared Ministries recognized that the Manna House operation was not fully addressing the many problems manifesting themselves in the community. Domestic Violence was identified as the primary concern to be addressed. In order to provide a more complete service which included crisis intervention, counseling, preventative services, community education and awareness, the Safe House Program was established. So far in 1989, Shared Ministries has served over 700 new clients through the storefront Manna House operation and the Safe House. Over time, the Safe House Domestic Violence Program has expanded its services to include all family crises. In order to illustrate this change, the Safe House Domestic Violence Program changed its name to the Safe House Family Crisis Center.

During the past year, the Safe House has been meeting needs beyond those commonly considered to be spouse abuse, such as, child abuse intervention and prevention, elder abuse, teen runaways, court ordered diversion, marital, and family
counseling. Education about anger, assertiveness, stress reduction, and healthy living is offered in weekly group sessions.

The services provided are comprehensive and involve short and long-term assistance. The Safe House provides a 14 point service system approved by the state of California and the Central California Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

1. 24 hour hotline
2. Counseling (licensed/nonlicensed)
   Licensed counseling is provided by referral upon request.
3. Business Center
   For easy access and coordination of services
4. Shelter
   Coordinated through Manna House
5. Emergency food and shelter
   Coordinated through Manna House
6. Law Enforcement Agency Assistance
7. Hospital Emergency Assistance
8. Emergency Transportation
9. Counseling for Children
   Crisis counseling only, long-term by referral
10. Court and Social Service Advocacy
11. Legal Assistance
    Information provided to assist with Temporary Restraining Orders, custody disputes, and court procedures.
12. Community Resource and Referral
13. Household Establishment Assistance
    Coordinated through Manna House
14. Optional Services
    child abuse
    elder/dependent abuse
    teen crisis
    court ordered diversion
    self-help group
    community education

What began as an emergency resource of food, shelter, clothing and transportation, has expanded to include services for victims of all crimes, domestic violence, abused children, abused elderly, teen aged crisis, and families in crisis.

Safe House knows and is known by the residents and agencies of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties. Volunteers help provide emergency services, clerical help, advocacy, court escort and support, hotline response, peer counseling, transportation, and fund raising assistance.

Safe House has been supported by a combination of funding sources, service clubs (Kiwanas, Lions, Elks, Rotary, and
Soroptimists), churches, businesses, and individuals. Because of governmental budget cutbacks to rural area programs, the Safe House is facing serious financial difficulties. To insure the integrity, effectiveness, and consistency of this program, Safe House needs the help and support of all of the communities utilizing the services of Safe House.

Please consider the Safe House for receipt of marriage license fees collected for domestic violence programs during your next board of supervisors meeting. I have contacted the Motherlode Women's Center, Inc. in Tuolumne County and have notified them that the Safe House will be seeking funds from the marriage license fees collected in Mariposa County. I am sure we can work out an equitable arrangement for both programs and Mariposa County.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need further information or wish to discuss this matter in person, please contact me at (209) 683-3533.

Sincerely,

Sandy Meyers, Director