

To: Administration and Finance Committee

Date: 3/19/2019

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning & Marketing

Reviewed by: *WK.*

SUBJECT: RES Success Program – Midday Free Program

Background:

County Connection implemented new services and fares on March 10, 2019. One of the changes to the fare structure included the elimination of the Midday Free Program (10am-2pm), with Bridge Program users being exempted. The Bridge Program is based out of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District and is for persons 18-22 with disabilities, who have finished high school. Their goal is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills they need in order to make a successful transit to adult life. County Connection staff worked with Bridge Program staff to ensure their clients would present proper identification when boarding the bus. To date, the program appears to be working as no complaints have been reported by Bridge Program staff.

RES Success:

In recent weeks, County Connection staff was contacted by the RES Success staff with the request to have the Midday Free Program extended to their clients. RES is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization that offers services to individuals transitioning from programs such as Bridge. RES Success provides adults with developmental disabilities interdisciplinary services in areas of academics, social skills, recreation, vocational training, and the arts. Their programs provide participants with opportunities to continue their growth in becoming productive members of the community.

RES has offices throughout the East Bay with local services offered in Concord, Danville, Pleasant Hill and Martinez. It is estimated that between 20-40 clients and staff would use the Midday Free Program, on an average weekday. Given the two program's (Bridge and RES) interconnectedness, it would be beneficial for the recipients of these programs to extend the Midday Free Program to RES Success. RES has designed an ID card and clients and staff would be required to present it upon boarding.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the A&F Committee authorize extending the Midday Free Program to RES Success clients and staff.

Financial Implications:

Assuming an average weekday usage of 30 passengers, and \$1.75 for a senior/disabled day pass, County Connection's maximum fare loss would be approximately \$13,000.

Action Requested:

Staff requests that the A&F Committee forward the recommendation to extend the Midday Free Program to RES Success clients and staff to the Board for approval.