



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

April 9, 2024

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

JENNIE PITTMAN

Deputy Director
Administrative Services

VICTORIA JUMP

Deputy Director
Aging & Disability Services

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director to Sign, a Memorandum of Understanding with Assistance League of Ventura County for the Care Closet Program.

DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER

Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH

Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

Recommendation:

ELAINE MARTINEZ

Deputy Director
Community Services

Approve, and authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) Director, or designee, to sign, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Assistance League of Ventura County (ALVC), a philanthropic nonprofit, for the Care Closet program to provide needed supplies to children, youth and families within the child welfare system (Exhibit 1).

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Discussion:

HSA's Children & Family Services, in partnership with the ALVC, developed the Care Closet program to provide support to children and youth living in out of home care, resource families caring for those children and youth, and other families within the child welfare system who are experiencing difficult situations. Care Closets are not open to the general public, as the ALVC-donated supplies are reserved for those within the child welfare system. Social Workers screen referral requests, determine need, and distribute goods as applicable, which may include clothing, shoes, jackets, backpacks, hygiene supplies, diapers, blankets, bedding, and other essential items of daily living. Care Closets are located at two HSA office locations and within seven Healthy Start Schools in Oxnard and Port Hueneme, ensuring that Social Workers have immediate access to supplies that address the needs and fortify the well-being of vulnerable children, youth and families. HSA staff maintains inventory records to ensure the proper use of supplies and the overall integrity of the program. Additional Care Closets may be established at other sites as more schools begin Healthy Start Programs.

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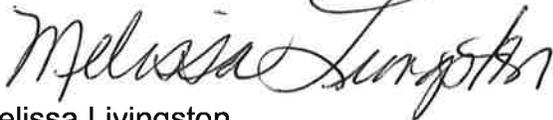
The ALVC is a local chapter of the National Assistance League organization. Assistance Leagues are focused on making communities a better place to live, with each chapter existing to serve the unique needs and challenges of their local community. ALVC was founded in 1949 and has made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of children and adults right here in Ventura County. In addition to the Care Closets, which got their start in 2021, ALVC operates seven other philanthropic programs through the compassion and efforts of over 100 volunteers.

We ask your Board to approve, and authorize the HSA Director to sign, the MOU with Assistance League of Ventura County. The MOU formalizes the structure and responsibilities of the Care Closet program.

Strategic Plan:

Care Closets contribute to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority to 'Address Homelessness and Lift Up the Most Vulnerable', Goal (2) Meet/sustain basic needs and be a reliable safety net for our vulnerable populations.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or David Swanson Hollinger, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services, at 805-477-5311.



Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:
Exhibit 1 – Assistance League Ventura County MOU