May 19, 2015

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: 2015 Innovation Recognition Awards – The “Inny” Awards

Dear Board Members,

RECOMMENDATION:
Award Recommended Winner, Runner-up and Honorable Mention Categories for 2015 "Inny Awards"

SUMMARY:
Encouraging innovation remains a critical strategy of your Board as the County tries to keep pace with a rapidly changing environment and community. Today we are recommending to your Board the winners of the County’s 2015 Innovation Recognition Awards (the "Innys"). Winners will be presented with crystal trophies to memorialize their achievements.

Modeled after the California State Association of Counties’ (CSAC) Challenge Awards, the County’s “Inny” awards program is intended to enhance employee engagement and recognition and build momentum toward additional efforts to innovate as an adaptation to our challenging economic reality. The Marin Community Foundation generously provided grant funding to seed the Inny Awards and other innovation strategies to help create a “County of MarInnovation.”

Applications this year were received from five departments, including the Sheriff’s Office; Elections; Health & Human Services; Human Resources; and Information Services & Technology. Each department should be commended for their innovative efforts, which made for another spirited discussion and evaluation among the judges. In particular, the Department of Health & Human Services should be noted for its consistent and high-quality applications in all three years of the Inny Awards since its inception in 2013. It is clear that HHS continues to foster an atmosphere of creativity, engagement and innovation in service to the community.

The judges included graduates of the spring 2012 Dominican Leadership Academy who completed a capstone project on ‘creating a culture of innovation’ at the County of Marin. They included Mark Brown, County Fire; Martin Graff, HHS; Jerod Kansanback, Sheriff; William Kelley, CDA; Chris Mai, HHS; Marina Raskin, IST; and Dan Eilerman, CAO.
Judges looked for projects that were inventive, replicable, and represented new and effective ways of providing services to our residents or across our County departments. Entries included some initiatives that utilized technology and others that were not of a technical nature – including exciting projects that engaged our residents and clients in new ways. All entries provided examples of employees or departments willing to look at long-standing problems in new and different ways to achieve better results. Choosing a winner, runner-up and honorable mention among applicants continues to be a challenging and inspiring exercise.

**Winner**

It is recommended that the Sheriff’s Office receive the 2015 Inny Award for its Jail Kitchen Bakery program. The Sheriff’s Office may have received Inny recognition sooner, but Inny Award guidelines require that a project be operative for at least one full year so that Inny Award winners are eligible for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Awards every June. The Sheriff’s Jail Kitchen Bakery program became eligible for the Inny this year.

In order to reduce costs and provide on-the-job skills training for inmates, the Sheriff’s Office built a bakery within the Marin County Jail. Previous to implementation of the Jail Kitchen Bakery, the Marin County Jail consumed approximately 38,000 loaves of whole wheat bread per year at a cost of approximately $47,000 per year – or $1.24 per loaf, one of the largest expenses for the food services staff.

The Sheriff’s Office proposed the implementation of an in-house bakery in the Marin County Jail kitchen to (1) reduce costs by producing its own source of bread, and potentially selling the bread to other nearby agencies, and (2) to provide incarcerated individuals vocational skills that will help make them employable once they are re-integrated into the community.

With a $129,000 FY 2012-13 BCP for construction, the project began in 2013 and was completed under budget. Estimated savings are now $51,000 per year – resulting in a return-on-investment (ROI) of less than three years. The bakery is also producing bread for the Marin County Juvenile Hall facility, saving Probation approximately $800-$1,000 per year as well. As of March 2015, four inmate kitchen workers have received a baker’s certification as well as a Food Handler’s Certification, preparing them to enter the workforce upon release from incarceration.

The Sheriff’s Jail Kitchen Bakery project models the kind of innovation required for the County of Marin to stay “ahead of the curve” as we exit the worst recession since the Great Depression. With a short and measurable return-on-investment, as well as other benefits that cannot be easily measured, the Sheriff’s Office is to be commended for their project and willingness to take a chance to make a difference in the community.
Runner-Up
It is recommended that the Runner-Up Award go to the Elections Department for its Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Filings and Online Public Disclosure program.

The Elections Department is responsible for receiving, retaining and making available for public viewing FPPC campaign finance reports and statements of economic interests of candidates, committees, elected officials and designated employees of the County, special districts, school districts, and other agencies. The number of required yearly filers is approximately 1,000 - depending on the election cycle and the number of designated filers. Reports were completed, printed, delivered and filed on paper that required original signatures. The office tried various means of improving efficiency, transparency, access and accuracy over the years.

When new legislation went into effect in 2013, allowing paperless reports and statements, the department investigated and engaged a software solution for its multi-form filing capabilities, website interface, offsite servers, ease of use, and available support options.

After implementation, the office is now no longer inundated by mounds of paper; the e-filer is unburdened with the rituals of printing, signing, and mailing reports, resulting in a savings of paper and time; and Elections staff is free to redirect its resources to other productive activities. The public no longer needs to come to the Civic Center to obtain copies - the information is found on the County’s website through a convenient and searchable database; E-filing eliminates the need for paper, signatures, and postage; all data is now kept on a secure server; requirements to monitor and review filings is made easier because the program reduces errors, resulting in a decrease of filer amendments; filer’s information is retained for future reports; and agencies, districts, and departments can easily keep track of who is required to file, and who has or has not yet filed their Form 700.

In an era where the County will need to find new ways of doing business, the Elections Office FPPC Filings and Online Public Disclosure program represents a wise and limited investment of public resources with an ongoing increase in staff productivity and enhanced service to employees and the public.

Honorable Mention
We are also recommending honorable mention to the Department of Health and Human Services for its Community Picnic and Fruit and Veggie Fest project.

The HHS "Fruit and Veggie Fest" Community Picnic is an innovative approach to address concerns about childhood obesity - a public health problem that disproportionately impacts low-income neighborhoods in Marin County.
Rather than relying exclusively on traditional methods of utilizing Public Health staff to formally educate the public, the "Fruit and Veggie Fest" Community Picnic engages the community with a family friendly, fun and lively approach that reinforces healthy eating and active living. The event, now celebrating its 5th year, is a successful partnership of neighborhood retailers, community agencies and Health and Human Services.

Held on the Marin Health and Wellness Campus, the event provides local residents with the chance to sample healthy foods, gain awareness of health and service programs, and experience the Campus as an important and welcoming community asset. Families leave the picnic with cookbooks, recipe cards, and other materials that support a healthy lifestyle and healthy community.

The picnic promotes residents' connections with Campus services - such as WIC (Women Infants and Children) program, Marin Community Clinics and the Children’s Health Initiative - as well as other community resources such as CalFresh, San Francisco Marin Food Bank, LIFT-Levantate, and local parks. The program is cost-effective, relatively simple to administer and easily replicable in other neighborhoods and jurisdictions. The "Fruit and Veggie Fest" Community Picnic is yet another example of the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to address health concerns by bringing the message of prevention to people in their communities.

SUBMITTED BY: 
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REVIEWED BY: 
Matthew H. Hymel 
County Administrator

Cc: Sheriff Robert T. Doyle 
Lynda Roberts, Registrar of Voters 
Dr. Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health & Human Services

Innovation Team/Judges: Mark Brown, County Fire; Daniel Eilerman, CAO; Martin Graff, HHS Social Services; Jerod Kansanback, Sheriff; William Kelley, CDA; Chris Mai, HHS Social Services; and Marina Raskin, IST