



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Social Services  
Department No.: 044  
For Agenda Of: 1/16/2007  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: n/a  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Kathy Gallagher, 681-4451  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Ken Jensen Psy.D, 346-7312

**SUBJECT:** **Contracts with Child Abuse Listening and Mediation, Community Action Commission, and Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc for Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project activities**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Select\_Other

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Recommended Actions:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (C.A.L.M.) in the amount of \$25,875 to provide Home Connection Finder services to assist in locating appropriate relatives and family friends that may be able to provide a safe, stable and supportive home for children needing out-of-home placement.
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Community Action Commission (CAC) in the amount of \$86,625 to provide Home Connection Finder services to assist in locating appropriate relatives and family friends that may be able to provide a safe, stable and supportive home for children needing out-of-home placement.
- C. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc (GSSI) in the amount of \$178,418 to provide advocate/mentor support to the children and families served by Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation that have an identified substance abuse issue.

**Summary Text:** Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services has been notified by the State Department of Social Services that Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) funding has been approved in the amount of \$290,918. This allocation funds the Home Connection Finder Services program in the amount of \$112,500 and Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates program in the amount of \$178,418 for FY 2006-07. The funding for these programs will end June 30, 2007. These funds support activities that are necessary to improve outcomes for children and families consistent with our county Self-Assessment and/or System Improvement Plan (SIP). Request for Proposals for Home/Connections Finder (HCF) and Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates (SARAs) were released October 9, 2006. Two (2) proposals were received for HCF and one (1) proposal was received for SARAs. Following a comprehensive evaluation, contracts were awarded to C.A.L.M, CAC, and GSSI. Key considerations were demonstrated capacity to provide the services and reasonable, allowable, necessary costs. Contract amounts for HCF services in each region were based on caseload distribution.

- C.A.L.M. will work closely with CWS in the Santa Barbara region to help research and identify safe and stable placements for children entering care, children placed in group homes, and emancipating youths. Co-location with CWS will facilitate communication and a coordinated response to enable CWS workers to secure placements and adult connections for children who are dependents of the Court.
- CAC successfully operated a HCF program in Santa Barbara County for six months in 2006. CAC has significant experience serving the target population through a variety of programs countywide. CAC staff will also be co-located with Child Welfare Staff.
- GSSI will provide Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates and Support for the Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Cuyama, Los Alamos, Lompoc and Santa Ynez areas for children and families served by CWS and Juvenile Probation that have identified substance abuse issues. Services will be delivered through the establishment of two regional recovery advocacy teams. Since 2004, GSSI has been the lead agency in partnership with county and community organizations which provide a comprehensive system of care for perinatal women and their children, who face drug and/or alcohol addiction.

**Background:**

The Governor's Budget in FY 2005-06 added a new initiative called the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP). Funding was made available to counties through a competitive application process targeting outcomes related to safety, permanence, and well-being or system improvements identified as part of the county Self-Assessment, an approved county System Improvement Plan, and/or the county Peer Quality Case Review, completed in accordance with the State Child Welfare Services Outcome and Accountability System (AB 636).

The CWSOIP funds, which do not require a county match, are intended to support county efforts to improve outcomes for children by providing counties with additional resources for activities such as: implementing new procedures, providing special training to staff or caregivers, purchasing services to meet unmet needs, conducting focused/targeted recruitment of caregivers or improving coordination between public and/or private agencies.

In May 2006, counties were informed that the proposed FY 2006-07 State Budget continued funding for CWSOIP. Santa Barbara County Social Services successfully secured CWSOIP funding for their Home

Connection Finder and Substance Abuse Recovery Advocate programs for FY 2006-2007. A summary and background on the program proposals is as follows:

#### Home Connection Finders

Santa Barbara County CWS continues to experience a significant increase in foster care entries and caseload growth. Existing local foster care placement capacity has been exhausted. In response to housing shortages for children needing out-of-home placement, the Home Connection Finder program has been established. HCF contractors will have the charge to assist in locating appropriate relatives and family friends that may be able to provide a safe, stable and supportive environment for children needing out-of-home placement. When such resources are identified, the contractor will assist in collecting needed background information on those involved. This will expedite DSS/Probation review and determine placement appropriateness. With this added support we can build our practice of placing children in the home of the most qualified relative. This determination will be made after an exhaustive search and comprehensive assessment process has taken place. It is estimated that 100% of the children coming into care should benefit by increased placement resources (approximately 500 children) through this program. The funding for the program will end June 30, 2007.

In FY 2005-06 Santa Barbara Social Services was successful in securing CWSOIP funding for a six month HCF program, with the contractor placement assistance staff fully integrated with Child Welfare Services and co-located at three of the six CWS sites. The HCF program received referrals from both CWS and Juvenile Probation. For the 263 children referred to HCF from January 1, 2006 through April 30, 2006, HCF staff located 223 possible placements for the children and referred and located 291 significant adults for the children served. The use of the program far exceeded the initial projection of serving 200 children.

#### Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocates

Santa Barbara County is currently facing a methamphetamine epidemic that is resulting in higher numbers of children entering foster care and lengthier reunification time frames. The ascending trend of substance abuse in our CWS families is projected to be at 91% in 2007. In response to the methamphetamine epidemic, the SARAs contractor will provide advocacy and support services to the children and families served by Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation that have an identified substance abuse issue. The goal of the program is to link parents and children to the recovery community at the onset of CWS intervention. Early family engagement is key to providing for the safety and well being of children. The contractor will play a pivotal role in engaging the parent/child in the development of their case plans and the delivery of services. The advocates provided by the contractor will assist the parent/child in locating and enrolling in drug treatment programs; engage the parent/child in treatment; assess the parent/child for potential relapse; and participate in the team decision making process.

In families where substance abuse is a factor, there tends to be a higher level of family dysfunction and resulting trauma to the child due to abuse and/or neglect. The contractor will provide advocates to engage the parent/child in drug treatment at the onset of the case. Effectively engaging families in drug treatment at the onset of the case is expected to enhance the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment. When families can remain alcohol and drug free, future risk of harm is reduced for the children improving the safety and well being of the family. In addition, participation and compliance with services from the onset and with the support of the recovery advocate will greatly increase the likelihood

of reunification within mandated timeframes. It is estimated that this program will serve 200 families and 450 children.

**Performance Measure:**

**Home Connection Finder Program**

The contractors will serve approximately 500 children during the six month term of the program.

1. 95% of Home Connection Finder searches will be initiated within 24 hours of receiving the referral.
2. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will result in a possible significant adult connection for the child.
3. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will result in a possible placement for the child.
4. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will be completed within 60 days of receiving the referral.

**Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocates**

The contractor will provide services to an estimated 200 families and 450 children during the six month term of the program.

1. 100% of referrals will be enrolled in treatment or wait listed within 3 weeks of being referred to the contractor, with the exception of those who have signed a declaration declining services.
2. 80% of clients referred to the contractor will continue to be enrolled and participating in treatment 3 months after referred, with the exception of those who have signed a declaration declining services.
3. 100% of contacts will be documented and provided to the Social Worker/Probation Officer by the 5th day of the month following the provision of services.
4. The contractor will support the transition of 90% of clients to self-sufficiency utilizing community support within 3 months of providing services by teaching them how to access transportation and the recovery community independent of the contractor.

These performance measures will be accomplished via the CDSS approved work plan included as Attachment A of the attached contracts.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No- A budget revision has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 290,918.00		
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 290,918.00	\$ -	\$ -

**Narrative:**

Approval and execution of these contracts will result in contract expenditures of no more than \$290,918 in FY 2006-07. Appropriations for these contracts were not included in the Department's approved budget. Therefore the Department has submitted a Budget Revision for Board approval. These contracts are 100% funded by the California State Department of Social Services. These funds, as well as the associated contracts, expire on June 30, 2007. There is no county funding needed.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:** Please send one (1) duplicate original Contract, one (1) copy of the budget revision, and a copy of the minute order to Diana Klopp

**Attachments:**

2 copies of the Contracts with Child Abuse Listening and Mediation, Community Action Commission and Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc  
Budget Revisions

**Authored by:** Melissa Hoesterey

**cc:**