



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: May 14, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Laurie Haro, Division Chief, (805) 346-7102
SUBJECT: Agreement with Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County for
Community Pathway Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Family Services Agency of Santa Barbara County (local vendor) to provide the Community Pathway Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$365,237 for the period of May 14, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and
- b) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve the Agreement with Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County (FSA) to provide the Community Pathway Program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$365,237 for the period from May 14, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Community Pathway Program will serve all eligible Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) candidacy groups and children, as well as families who do not meet FFPSA candidacy requirements but may benefit from prevention services when risk factors first arise so that traditional child welfare services like foster care are less likely to be needed.

Background:

The community pathway is a major strategy in the Child Welfare Services Comprehensive Prevention Plan written and approved to fulfill California's Families First Prevention Services (FFPS) Program, and presented to the Board in November 2023. Families across the county who are struggling will be offered care in a community pathway, a "gold-standard" science-based protocol that will include addressing immediate concrete needs, individualized support for parents' self-selected goals, and warm hand-offs to specialized services like parent coaching, mental health, and career education.

Together For Children (TFC) was formed by Santa Barbara County's Child Welfare Services in 2022 to meet the opportunities of the national FFPSA, a significant reform to child welfare services that allows federal child welfare funding to pay for preventative services for families of a child at "imminent risk" of being placed in foster care. The state of California's FFPS Program expands beyond the federal FFPSA to allow broader prevention services for families when risk factors first arise so that traditional child welfare services like foster care are less likely to be needed.

Preventing maltreatment requires new forms of collaborative leadership focused on ensuring that children's families are healthy and that the communities that support families are strong. TFC's major strategies rely on engaging a comprehensive, collaborative network to improve conditions for raising children, thereby promoting well-being and addressing root causes of adversity and child maltreatment.

Impactful change to county-wide, multi-sector systems like those that currently serve families calls for shifts and realignments that will take years to accomplish. For example, the existing Differential Response Program and Voluntary Maintenance efforts will be evaluated and evolved to be aligned with the Community Pathway. Also important among those shifts is a reimagining of work with children and families as preventative care, and changing practice to reflect current science around, for example, positive and adverse childhood experiences and motivation-driven practices to develop adults' core capabilities.

An invitation to bid was released on December 1, 2023 for the community pathway program to serve as care management entities, provide selected Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) to model fidelity standards and, with the provider of the EBP, make accommodations to the EBP to serve the needs of diverse populations while maintaining model fidelity standards. The EBPs are Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Healthy Families America (HFA), and Parents as Teachers (PAT). As a result, one (1) bid for funding was received by the submittal due date of December 29, 2023. Following a comprehensive evaluation, a contract is being awarded to FSA.

FSA is a nonprofit human service organization with a mission to strengthen and advocate for families and individuals of all ages and diversities, helping to create and preserve a health community. Established in 1899, FSA continues to improve the health and well-being of the community's most vulnerable children, families, and seniors. Their programs, which serve more than 16,000 people annually, combine clinical expertise, bilingual and bicultural staff, and close collaboration with other agencies.

Performance Measure:

Key performance measure for FSA include:

- A. A range of families' needs such as concrete and economic supports, parent coaching, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment, are respectively and effectively addressed by the Community Pathway.

1. This will be measured using the evidence-based Client Satisfaction Questionnaire 8 which asks participants to rate the level at which they received the services participants wanted as well as asking if the participants received what they needed.
- B. Community Pathway workforce understands their work as prevention.
1. All Community Pathway personnel will receive an orientation on the community pathway approach and its role as a prevention strategy. FSA will work with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Juvenile Probation to identify tools to measure this goal.
- C. Care management entities practice trauma-informed care including support for case managers and supervisors.
1. FSA will complete an annual trauma informed care training. FSA will work with CWS and Juvenile Probation to identify tools to measure this goal.
- D. Care management entities use FindHelp closed-loop referral system or other County approved method to send referrals.
1. At least three attempts will be made to connect the family with the provider referred to.
- E. Case Management
1. At least three attempts will be made to reach each referred family within three business days of receiving their referral. Attempts will be made at different times of the day (morning, lunchtime, afternoon) and, when possible, using different means (phone call, text, email).
 2. The case manager will meet with the family either in person, by telephone, or by video conference to complete a My Goal Plan and Stepping Stones assessment. The frequency and length of these meetings will be based on the parent’s self-selected goals, and the needs of the family.

Additional performance measures in regards to the selected EBPs are also included in the contract.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 2023/24 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 2024/25 Cost:</u>	<u>Total Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 28,172.00	\$ 338,065.00	\$ 366,237.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 28,172.00	\$ 338,065.00	\$ 366,237.00

Narrative: This Agreement is fully funded by the State’s FFPS Block Grant. The county’s FFPS allocation is \$1,548,546. Execution of this Agreement will not result in additional General Fund contributions. The costs are budgeted in the Department of Social Services’ Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget and Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget subject to adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

Key Contract Risks:

The risk assessment worksheet has been completed and DSS has determined that FSA is a medium risk vendor. FSA is insured for General and Professional Liability.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Please scan, email and send one (1) duplicate original Agreement, and a copy of the minute order to:

DSS Contracts Unit

C/O Tricia Beebe

2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, 3rd Floor

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Email: tbeebe@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Agreement – FSA – CPP

Authored by:

Laurie Haro, CWS Division Chief

Tricia Beebe, Contracts Coordinator