

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 5/4/06  
**Department Name:** Social Services  
**Department No.:** 044  
**Agenda Date:** 6/20/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kathy Gallagher,  
Social Services Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Edna Terrell, Deputy Director  
ext 4485

**SUBJECT:** CONTRACT WITH ARBOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING, LLC TO PROVIDE THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM'S EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Arbor Employment and Training, LLC, not a local vendor, for the purpose of purchasing state mandated Orientation, Job Club/Job Services, Appraisal, Assessment Testing and Career Advancement services for the period 7/1/06 through 6/30/09 at a cost not to exceed \$3,206,943; annual payments are not to exceed \$1,047,917 for the first year; \$1,070,098 for the second year and \$1,088,928 for the third year.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7. A Community That Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Beginning in 1995 with our former Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program, your Board has supported and approved contracts to provide Employment Services to our CalWORKs Welfare to Work participants. Since that time, the Department of Social Services has had a widely successful government-business partnership that provides mandated services to participants, while supporting them positively towards their goal of attaining self-sufficiency.

A Request for Proposals was released in early February and was publicized through direct mail to over 50 agencies, 25 of which were local. Additionally, the RFP was posted on the department website and advertised through public notices in local newspapers. Only one proposal was received in response to our efforts. Following a comprehensive evaluation from both internal staff and community members the contract was awarded to Arbor Education and Training, LLC a wholly-owned subsidiary of Res-Care, Inc.

Over the past year, Arbor acquired our previous contractor Concera Corporation a wholly owned subsidiary of Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (“ACS”), but has retained the same management and staff locally. The contractor has been extremely flexible in adjusting their staff level over the years as we have experienced fluctuations in our caseload. This flexibility will continue to be of particular importance as we await new regulations from the state in response to the reauthorization of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. We anticipate stricter work participation requirements and an expansion of the population served. Arbor is nationally recognized and has locally proven their ability to respond expeditiously to new program mandates effectively. A great deal of credit must be given to this dynamic partnership team that has over the years assisted thousands of participants in getting jobs and in improving their lives.

### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

AB 1542 Statutes of 1997 mandate the CalWORKs program. The level of Job Services is also mandated for recipients who are not exempt from Welfare to Work. As part of our plan to help clients reach self-sufficiency our department has also elected to offer these services to our volunteer applicant population. The Employment Services described above are included in our County Plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors on 12/16/97.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Approval and execution of this three-year contract will result in direct contract expenditures of no more than \$1,047,914 in Fiscal Year 2006/07. Funding comes from the Department’s Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) allocation received from the State Department of Social Services. These revenues and the appropriations for this Contract as well as our CalWORKs program are included in the CalWORKs cost center of the Self-Sufficiency Division shown on page D210 of the budget. There is no additional County general funds required for this contract.

### **Special Instructions:**

After execution by the Chair, please return one (1) originally signed agreement for the contractor, the Department copies of the agreements and one (1) copy of the minute order, attention: Paula Haines.

### **Concurrence:**

Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
Risk Management