



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: June 17, 2008  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Kathy M. Gallagher, Director 346-7101  
Director:  
Contact Info: Cindy Nott, 346-7102

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Community Action Commission for Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

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

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Community Action Commission (CAC) for the purpose of Enhanced Family Reunification Services in the amount of \$190,000 for the period 7/1/08 through 6/30/09.
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Social Services to approve amendments to the proposed contract provided any such amendments are not in variance of 10% of the contract's dollar amount.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Social Services, at her discretion, to negotiate renewals for up to two (2) additional years of service beyond the initial term to the aforementioned contract, provided that any such renewals to the contract are not in variance of 10% of the contract's dollar amount. The terms of the renewal will be subject renegotiation, based on performance measure and satisfaction with services provided.

**Summary Text:**

Child Welfare Services (CWS) offers several support services to children as well as their birth, adoptive and foster parents in order to promote safe and stable families within the communities. For families involved with CWS, the support services help facilitate successful family reunification. One of the Enhanced Family Reunification Services to be provided under this contract is supervised visitation. When children and youth are placed out of their parents' care because of abuse or neglect issues, the Juvenile Court often orders supervised visitation. Supervised visitation allows the parent to maintain contact with their children while there is some degree of protection for the children and youth. Supervised visitation permits a third person monitoring the visits between the parent and the child to assure the interaction between parent and child is healthy and the child is safe from further abuse or coercion by the parent. The contract also provides for transportation services. Transportation services will assist the child who is placed outside of their family home to attend necessary appointments related to reunification such as counseling appointments, medical appointments, or transportation to/from parent/child visits that are unsupervised. Referrals will be made by Child Welfare Social Workers. These visits would be at a site which allows for visits in an appropriate setting. On a case-by-case basis, visits will occur at sites to be determined by the referring Social Worker. Visitation monitors would be expected to supervise the entire visit, to intervene if necessary and to give written feedback about the visits to the social worker who made the referral. Transportation services provided also entail detailed feedback to the Social Worker.

**Background:**

The Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability Act (AB 636), adopted in 2001, mandates improvements in California's Child Welfare System. In compliance with AB636, each county prepared a System Improvement Plan (SIP). Santa Barbara's County's SIP has three priority outcomes. Priority Area One: Safety. Santa Barbara Child Welfare Services (CWS) is committed to the goal of protecting children from abuse and neglect. Priority Area Two: Permanency and Stability. Permanency and Stability are crucial factors in "normal" child development and key to providing good outcomes for children. Priority Area Three: Child Well Being. To families involved with the Child Welfare System, reunification is often the primary permanency goal and the most likely reason a child will leave placement. The preference for the role of natural parents is codified in law and provides the rationale for retaining reunification as a core outcome for children placed in foster care. Parents have the fundamental right to direct the care, custody, and control of their children, and it is presumed that, until or unless proven otherwise, they will act in a child's best interest. Contracting out this much needed service in Santa Barbara County will allow DSS to focus on the SIP outcome to reduce the length of time to exit foster care to reunification.

**Performance Measures:**

1. 95% of the referrals received will be responded to within three (3) business days.
2. 100% compliance with scheduled appointments.
3. 100% of completed activities will be reported in an e-mail and documented in the CWS/CMS application within three (3) days of the completed contact.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**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		\$ 57,000	
State		\$ 133,000	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total		\$ 190,000	

Narrative:

The Department has included \$190,000 in appropriations and associated funding in the FY 2008-09 recommended budget for this contract. This contract is 70% State funded and 30% County funded. Appropriations and associated funding will be included in Department’s FY 2009-10 budget request if the contract is extended for the respective year. The same would apply to FY 2010-11 if extended for a third year. The Agreement contains a non-appropriation clause in the event funds are not appropriated. The costs associated with the extension would continue to be 70% State funded and 30% County funded.

**Staffing Impacts:**

<b><u>Legal Positions:</u></b>	<b><u>FTEs:</u></b>
0	0

**Special Instructions:** Please send one (1) fully executed copy of the Agreement and Minute Order to:

Department of Social Services  
 Attn: Judy Doughty-Contracts Coordinator  
 2125 S Centerpointe Parkway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Santa Maria, CA 93455

**Attachments:** One (1) copy of the Agreement

**Authored by:**

Cindy Nott