



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: February 26,2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Child Welfare Services Outcome Project (CWSIOP) with
Community Action Commission for Home Connection Finder Services

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 Amendment No. 2 with Community Action Commission (CAC) for the purpose of providing Home Connection Finder (HCF) services by an additional \$95,000 for the period 1/1/07 through 6/30/09 for a total contract in the amount of \$372,889.
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Social Services to approve future amendments to the aforementioned contracts, provided that any such amendments to the contracts are not in variance of 10% of the contract's dollar amount.

Summary Text: In January 2007, as a result of two Requests for Proposals (RFP) Procurement efforts, the County of Santa Barbara entered into contracts with Good Samaritan Shelter, and Community Action Commission (CAC), and Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM) after being notified by the State Department of Social Services that the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSIOP) funding had been approved. These funds support activities that are necessary to improve outcomes for children and families consistent with Santa Barbara County's Self-Assessment and/or System Improvement Plan (SIP).

Effective June 30, 2007 CALM opted out of renewing their contract to provide Home Connection Finders (HCF) services in the Santa Barbara region. CAC agreed to provide HCF services countywide, including the population formerly served by CALM. The contract with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc to provide the Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates (SARA) at mutual agreement has been terminated effective February 29, 2008 because of difficulty in meeting performance expectations and the subsequent decline in client referrals. This funding is being redirected to CAC to expand Home Finder services. Effective March 1, 2008, Community Action Commission, in addition to the HCF services already being provided, has agreed to add a Placement Search Assistant (PSA) to address a much needed service in Santa Barbara County. The new PSA will be responsible for identifying and locating possible foster home and group home placements for dependent children.

Home Connection Finders

In calendar year 2005 Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services experienced a significant increase in foster care entries and caseload growth. Existing local foster care placement capacity was exhausted and in response to housing shortages for children needing out-of-home placement, CAC & CALM's contracts were developed to assist in locating relatives and family friends that might be able to provide a safe, stable and supportive environment for the dependent or ward. In addition, they were also developed to locate Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM) homes and with identifying/locating a family mentor or significant adult who could assist the child to achieve their goals related to healthy self-sufficiency. When such resources are identified, the placement services staff assists in collecting needed background information on those involved. This process expedites DSS/Probation review and helps to determine placement appropriateness. It is estimated that 100% of the children coming into care should benefit by increased placement resources. On average there are 550 children who are placed in out-of-home care.

The newly appointed Placement Search Assistant will have the charge to:

- Assist in locating a stable placement for children who are in Shelter Care beds on a county wide basis in compliance with Santa Barbara County CWS policy.
- Assist in locating appropriate foster homes or group homes that may be able to provide a safe, stable and supportive environment for the dependent.
- Maintain confidentiality of all information.

Background:

In FY 2005/2006 the State Budget added the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP). Funding from CWSOIP 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 (SIP), 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. This program has continued to be funded in the State budget and is funded in the Governor’s proposed FY 08/09 budget.

Performance Measures:

Home Connection Finder Program for Placement Search Assistant (PSA)

1. Within 24 hours of receiving the referral, 100% of PSA searches will be initiated.
2. Within 30 days of receiving the referral, 100% of PSA searches will be completed.
3. 100% of PSA searches will result in appropriate placement within fourteen days of child entering Emergency Shelter Care.
4. 100% of PSA searches will result in locating an appropriate placement for the child.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Prior Year Costs</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 120,632	\$ 165,632	\$ 86,625
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 120,632	\$ 165,632	\$ 86,625

Narrative:

This contract is 100% funded by the California State Department of Social Services and does not require any local contribution. Approval of this amendment increases the contract for FY 07/08 by \$25,000 and FY 08/09 by \$70,000. The amended breakdown of the contract is FY 06/07 \$86,625; FY 07/08 \$120,632; and FY 08/09 \$165,632 for a total of \$372,889. Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007-08 have been included in the approved budget, Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Subdivision, on page D222. Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-09 will be included in the respective budget.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions: Please send one (1) duplicate original Amendment with an original signature page, and a copy of the minute order to Diana Klopp.

Attachments: One (1) copy of the Amendment

Authored by:

Cindy Nott