



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:** April 7, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director  
Director(s) (805) 346-7101  
Contact Info: Marianne Reagan, Operations Division Chief  
Adult and Children Services, (805) 681-4529  
**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County 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:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County to provide Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$180,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; 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 Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (CAC) to provide Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services (Reunification Services) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$180,000 for the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Contracting out this essential service assists the Department of Social Services (DSS) in meeting our System Improvement Plan goal to successfully reunify families and exit children from foster care in an expedient manner, which is also in alignment with the Federal Outcome Measure for Timely Reunification. DSS recommends the approval of the Agreement.

**Background:**

For families involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS), Reunification Services aid in the facilitation of successful family reunification. One of the Reunification Services provided under this Agreement is supervised visitation. When a child is removed from his or her parents' care due to abuse and/or neglect, the Welfare and Institutions Code mandates CWS to provide family reunification services when deemed in the best interest of the child. Customarily, during the reunification process, the Juvenile Court orders supervised visitation as one of the many supportive services. Supervised visitation permits a third person to monitor the visits between the parent and the child to assure that the interaction between parent and child is healthy and the child is safe from further abuse or coercion by the parent. CWS social workers refer the families to said program and establish the applicable parameters including frequency and acceptable locations for visitation. When supervising visitation, monitors shall be expected to observe the entire visit, to intervene if necessary, and to provide the referring social worker with timely written feedback.

Another aspect of Reunification Services is to provide transportation services. Transportation services shall assist the child who is placed outside of their family home to attend supervised visits or transportation to/from parent/child visits that are unsupervised. Transportation services also entail detailed feedback to the CWS social worker. It is estimated on current workloads that the contractor would provide transportation/supervision for approximately 100 visits per month with the majority of these occurring after-hours (evenings), weekends and holidays.

**Performance Measure:**

CAC currently provides these services and has demonstrated substantial conformity with the identified performance measures as indicated below.

***Current Performance Data For CAC (As of Fiscal Year 2019/2020)***

- 100% of the referrals received were responded to by CAC within three business days to schedule the first appointment. (Target =100%)
- 97% of compliance by participants in attending scheduled appointments with their assigned social worker. (Target =98%)
- 97% of completed Reunification Services was reported in an e-mail to the assigned social worker within 72 hours of the completed contact. (Target =98%)

CAC substantially met the performance measures although they did not meet all of their performance measures. The following performance measures shall be included in the Agreement:

- 100% of the referrals received shall be responded to within three business days.
- 98% compliance with scheduled appointments.
- 98% of completed Reunification Services shall be reported in an e-mail to the assigned CWS social worker within 72 hours of the completed family visitation.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>FY 20-21 Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund	\$ 54,000.00		
State - 2011RE	\$ 126,000.00		
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 180,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Narrative: Approval and execution of this contract will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$180,000. Appropriations and associated funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 are included in DSS’ recommended budget under the Social Service Programs division. This contract will be funded with 70% State 2011 Realignment funds and 30% County funds. The Agreement contains a non-appropriation clause in the event funds are not appropriated.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The risk assessment worksheet has been completed. DSS has determined that CAC is a medium risk vendor. County has significant experience with CAC and is confident of its ability to continue providing services. CAC has been the provider of these services since 2008.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
None

**FTEs:**  
None

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment 1 - Agreement – CAC – EFR 20-21

**Authored by:**

Marianne Reagan, ACS Operations Division Chief  
Tricia Beebe, Contracts Coordinator