



**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, 2014  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Daniel Nielson , Director (805) 346-7101  
Director:  
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Division Chief for Social Services Operations, (805) 346-7248

**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 the Agreement with for Services of Independent Contractor with Community Action Commission (CAC) for the purpose of Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$270,000 for the period 7/1/14 through 6/30/15 (the "Agreement") (Attachment 1); and
2. Determine that the execution of the Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the execution of the Agreement is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

**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 Support Services to be provided under this Agreement is supervised visitation. When children and youth are placed out of their parent's

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 Agreement also provides for transportation services. Transportation services will 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.

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 aides are 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. It is estimated on current workload 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.

#### **Background:**

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. Contracting out this much needed service in Santa Barbara County will assist DSS in meeting our System Improvement Plan improvement goal to reduce the length of time for children to exit foster care to reunification in support of the Federal Outcome Measure for Timely 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 to the assigned social worker and documented in the CWS/CMS by the next business day of the completed contact.

#### **Key Contract Risks:**

The risk assessment worksheet has been completed. CAC is insured for General and Professional Liability. DSS has had a positive and productive relationship with CAC. CAC has been providing Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services for the last six (6) years. DSS is confident of CAC's ability to continue providing these services.

CAC has satisfactorily met the performance standards set forth in the prior contract.

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

Budgeted: Yes **Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			\$ 81,000
State-2011 Realignment			189,000
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total			\$ 270,000

**Narrative:**

Approval and execution of this contract will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$270,000. Appropriations and associated funding for FY 2014-15 are included in the Department of Social Services 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.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

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

Department of Social Services  
Attn: Contracts Coordinator  
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

**Attachments:**

Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

**Authored by:**

Amy Krueger