



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: September 18, 2007  
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: Melissa Hoesterey, 346-7248

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to the Child Welfare Services Outcome Project (CWSIOP) with Good Samaritan Shelter, and Community Action Commission

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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 Amendment No. 1 to extend the contract term for two vendors, for the continued provision of Home Connection Finder services and Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocate services to the children and families served by Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation, contingent on funding from the Child Welfare Services Outcome Project (CWSIOP) for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009:
  - a. Good Samaritan Shelter, a local vendor, increase the amount by \$303,322, for a total contract not to exceed \$481,740, to provide advocate/ mentor support to the children and families served by Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation that have an identified substance abuse issue;
  - b. Community Action Commission, a local vendor, increase the amount by \$191,264 for a total contract not to exceed \$277,889 to provide Home Connection Finder (HCF) services to assist in locating appropriate relative and family friends that may be able to provide a safe, stable, and supportive home for children needing out-of-home placement, who are served by Child Welfare Services or Juvenile Probation.
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 Request for Proposals (RFP) Procurement efforts, the County of Santa Barbara entered into contracts with Good Samaritan Shelter, and Community Action Commission, and Child Abuse Listening and Mediation 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).

The RFP and contract language allows for extension of the contracts for up to two years.

Effective FY 2007-08, Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM) has opted out of renewing their contract to provide HCF services in the Santa Barbara region. Community Action Commission has agreed to provide the Home Connection Finders services and serve the population formerly served by CALM and the contract amendment reflects these changes. Good Samaritan Shelter has agreed to continue to provide Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocate services.

#### Home Connection Finders

In calendar year 2005 Santa Barbara County CWS 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, CALM's Home Connection Finder Placement Assistance Staff (PAS) were hired and PAS charged with assisting 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 charged with locating Non- Related Extended Family Member (NREFM) homes and with locating and identifying 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 (approximately 500 children) through this program.

#### Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocates

Santa Barbara County is currently facing a methamphetamine epidemic that is resulting in higher numbers of children entering foster care and lengthier reunification time frames. The ascending trend of substance abuse in our CWS families is projected to be at 91% in 2007. In response to the methamphetamine epidemic, five Substance Abuse Recovery Advocates have been recruited to provide support to the children and families served by Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation that have an identified substance abuse issue. The goal of the program is to link parents and children to the recovery community at the onset of CWS intervention. Early family engagement is key in providing for the safety and well being of children. The Substance Abuse Recovery Advocate (SARA) plays a pivotal role in engaging the parent/child in the development of their case plans and the delivery of services. The role of the SARA is to assist the parent/child in locating and enrolling in drug treatment programs; engaging the parent/child in treatment; assessing the parent/child for potential relapse; and participate in the team decision making process. The advocates may be in recovery or have a history of involvement with CWS or Juvenile Probation and can serve as a positive role model for the parent/child.

The experience of the advocates will provide a point of connection for the parents/children and will enhance the social worker/probation officers understanding of the recovery process. In addition, the advocates meet with the parent/child frequently in the first few months of services to provide support

and closely monitor participation in their respective drug treatment programs. The advocates work as a team with the assigned social worker/probation officer in providing quality case management and supportive services to the family. In addition, the advocates participate in all Team Decision Making meetings for the parent/child to assist in making sound decisions about child/family well-being.

**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.

**Performance Measures:**

**Home Connection Finder Program**

1. 95% of Home Connection Finder searches will be initiated within 24 hours of receiving the referral.
2. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will result in a possible significant adult connection for the child.
3. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will result in a possible placement for the child.
4. 80% of Home Connection Finder searches will be completed within 60 days of receiving the referral.

**Substance Abuse and Recovery Advocates**

1. 100% of referrals will be enrolled in treatment or wait listed within 3 weeks of being referred to the contractor, with the exception of those who have signed a declaration declining services.
2. 80% of clients referred to the contractor will continue to be enrolled and participating in treatment 3 months after referred, with the exception of those who have signed a declaration declining services.
3. 100% of contacts will be documented and provided to the Social Worker/Probation Officer by the 5th day of the month following the provision of services.
4. The contractor will support the transition of 90% of clients to self-sufficiency utilizing community support within 3 months of providing services by teaching them how to access transportation and the recovery community independent of the contractor.

Anticipated outcomes and performance related to these contracts will have a positive effect on the following SIP Goals and Strategies:

- Goal 2: Collaborate earlier and more effectively with other partner agencies, schools, community based organizations (CBOs), CalWORKs, and community members.
- Goal 4: Establish consistent collaborative processes for assessing families' potential for successful reunification
- Goal 14: Increase youth participation in critical decisions affecting them

- Goal 17: Enhance Juvenile Court, CWS, and Probation collaboration effectiveness.
- Strategy 19.1: PQCR to focus on CWS and Probation Foster Care practices that enhance youth and family engagement.
- Goal 10: Increase the number and type of resource families e.g., foster, kin, adoptive, respite, emergency care, concurrent planning.
- Strategy 9.1: Enhance supportive services provided to resource families (adoptive, foster and kinship families).
- Strategy 13.1: Identify involved and supportive adults that are consistently available for the duration of care.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Select\_Budgeted

**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           |                         |                                  |                                    |
| State                  | \$ 247,293              | \$ 247,293                       |                                    |
| Federal                |                         |                                  |                                    |
| Fees                   |                         |                                  |                                    |
| Other:                 |                         |                                  |                                    |
| Total                  | \$ 247,293              | \$ 247,293                       |                                    |

Narrative:

Approval and execution of these two year contract extensions will result in direct contract expenditures of no more than \$494,586.

These costs have been allocated as follows: \$247,293 in Fiscal Year 2007-08 and \$247,293 in FY 2008-09. 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. These contracts are 100% funded by the California State Department of Social Services.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:** Please send one (1) duplicate original Contract, one (1) copy of the budget revision, and a copy of the minute order to Diana Klopp.

**Attachments:** 2 copies of Amendments with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc and Community Action Commission.

**Authored by:**

Melissa Hoesterey

**cc:**