



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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Social Services  
**Department No.:** 044  
**Agenda Date:** July 1, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Daniel Nielson  
Contact Info: Marianne Reagan, Adult and Children Services Program Support and Development Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Pathway Family Services, Inc. for Child Welfare Services Support for Children and Youth with Complex Needs

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement with Pathway Family Services, Inc. to provide Child Welfare Services Support for Children and Youth with Complex Needs in the amount not to exceed \$200,000, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; 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 Pathway Family Services, Inc. (Pathway) to provide Child Welfare Services (CWS) Support for Children and Youth with Complex Needs in the amount of \$200,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. These services are designed to provide comprehensive support to children and youth in foster care and the resources to parents that care for them. Many of these children and youth have experienced multiple placements, placement disruptions, and significant trauma, necessitating a highly structured and supportive environment to promote their well-being and development.

**Background:**

The County has identified a gap in serving youth with complex needs once they enter foster care. To bridge this gap, the County is partnering with Pathway to provide enhanced support to children and youth placed in both Emergency Shelter Care and Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC). Services will include an assessment of child and resource parent needs, in-home counseling, trauma-informed training, and concrete supports to families including transportation and linkages to community resources. The goal is to maintain children and youth in foster care in the least restrictive setting, ensuring safety and enhancing well-being.

The County is committed to identifying and supporting trauma-informed resource homes that can effectively meet the needs of foster youth with complex, trauma-related challenges. These youth include those who are survivors of or at-risk for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), individuals with co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and severe mental health conditions, youth experiencing significant co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and those with trauma-induced behaviors, including assaultive tendencies.

Given the severity of these trauma-related behaviors, even the most experienced and well-supported family-based caregivers may require additional resources. In such cases, intensive therapeutic care in a residential setting may be necessary. The County remains dedicated to maintaining children in the least restrictive, family-based environments whenever possible. To achieve this, the County prioritizes comprehensive support and trauma-informed training for Emergency Shelter Care and Intensive Services Foster Care homes, ensuring that youth receive the stability and care they need to heal and thrive.

**Performance Measure:**

The following performance measure is included in the Agreement with Pathway:

- A. CONTRACTOR shall monitor the safety and well-being of children in their shelter and ISFC homes. 100% of children/youth placed in Emergency Shelter Care and in ISFC homes will not have any substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect by resource parents or any other adult members that are living in the home.
- B. CONTRACTOR shall complete an assessment of the child and resource family's needs within five (5) business days of placement.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund		
State	\$200,000	<b>\$200,000</b>
Federal		
Fees		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

Approval and execution of this contract will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$200,000. Appropriations and Funding for Fiscal Year 2025-26 are included in the DSS Recommended Budget under the Social Programs division. This contract will be fully funded by an allocation from the State, per County Fiscal Letter 21/22-54.

Execution of this contract will not result in additional General Fund contributions. The Agreement contains a non-appropriation clause in the event funds are not appropriated.

**Staffing Impacts: 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

[tbeebe@countyofsb.org](mailto:tbeebe@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Agreement – Pathway for CWS Support for Children and Youth with Complex Needs

**Authored by:**

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