

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 1/2/02
Department: Public Health
Budget Unit: 041
Agenda Date: 1/22/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Roger E. Heroux, Director
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Tara Brown, Assistant Director
681-5217

SUBJECT: Sojourn Services, Inc. Professional Services Agreement

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Execute an Agreement with Sojourn Services, Inc. for professional services for the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) newborn home visitation project:
 1. For the period January 22, 2001 to June 30, 2002, in the not to exceed amount of \$264,533 for home visitation direct services;
 2. For the period July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities and for Targeted Case Management services.
- B. Authorize the Director of Public Health to execute an amendment with Sojourn Services, Inc. to increase the claimable amount of the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities and Targeted Case Management Activities once the State of California has approved an increase in the reimbursement.
- C. Authorize the Director of Public Health to execute a Business Associate Agreement with Marian Medical Center to ensure compliance of patient choice and confidentiality for the WEB program as required under the Health Insurance Accountability and Portability Act (HIPAA) for the period January 22, 2002 to June 30, 2004.
- D. Authorize the Director of Public Health to execute a Business Associate Agreements with Cottage Health Systems to ensure compliance of patient choice and confidentiality for the WEB program as required under the Health Insurance Accountability and Portability Act (HIPAA) for the period January 22, 2002 to June 30, 2004.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: These recommendations align with Goal VII: Families and Children – A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program will begin Phase I implementation on January 22, 2002 by providing home visits to families of newborns where one or both parents is less than 25 years of age. During this pilot Phase services will be offered in only certain zip codes in north and south county areas. This Proposition 10 funded program is designed to help families discover, evaluate, and achieve the best possible nurturing parent-child relationship by offering in-home postpartum medical assessments of the mother and baby within 48 to 72 hours of hospital discharge and in-home child development advice when the baby is four months and nine months of age.

The model program was designed by a Coalition of Community Partners over the past two years. Upon the Community Partners' recommendation, the Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County (the Commission) and your Board approved a seventeen-month action plan and \$1,300,000 budget with the Public Health Department acting as the lead agency. The action plan had three goals:

- 1) develop a Countywide program model and pilot it in target communities,
- 2) evaluate fiscal leveraging to increase project resources for future sustainability, and
- 3) complete regional service delivery strategies and transition the program to permanency with a six-month Phase I implementation in targeted communities in north and south county areas.

On March 6, 2001 your Board executed agreements with the Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for the Public Health Department to act as the lead agency for the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) Project. Marian Home Health Care, Gentiva, the Public Health Department, Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM), and Sojourn Services, Inc will provide direct services. Both Cottage Hospital and Marian Medical Center are actively participating in the pilot by allowing a hospital outreach coordinator to introduce the program and explain the importance of postpartum care to new mothers. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreements with these hospitals will ensure patient choice and confidentiality is maintained.

Mandates and Service Levels: This is a non-mandated service. The WEB Project represents an increase in service levels to families. Phase I of the project will provide new services to 1,220 families. Annually, there are approximately 6,000 births in Santa Barbara County. The Coalition of Community Partners will apply for further funding from the Commission and other sources with the goal of offering newborn home visits to all County residents.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The not to exceed amount for direct services by Sojourner Services, Inc. is \$264,533. This recommendation will not increase the General Fund contribution or use of Special Revenue funds for the Public Health Department. In addition, there will be no increase in indirect costs incurred by the department of the use of A87 Plan County overhead.

This Agreement will provide fiscal leveraging through federal financial participation for activities that improve the availability and accessibility of Medi-Cal benefits for eligible clients and assist Medi-Cal recipients in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services. The County acts solely as a consultant and pass-through agent for claiming purposes and disbursements of any Medi-Cal Administrative

Activities (MAA) or Targeted Case Management (TCM) funds received based on Sojourn's services. The estimated \$720,836 in TCM and \$317,627 in MAA funds are for all eligible Sojourn activities, including those in the Early Start program for high-risk children. Additional funds received, as a result of the requested amendment to increase the claimable amount, will be used to expand the WEB program to the Lompoc Valley and other areas.

The administrative fee for the County acting as a consultant and pass-through agent for the MAA and the TCM programs will be approximately \$103,796. This 10% fee will directly offset the costs of State and other participation fees, as well as, the administration costs of the program within the Public Health Department.

Appropriation for this Agreement can be found in Fund 0042, Department 041, Program 1235, Account 7460. Revenue will be posted to Fund 0042, Department 041, Program 1235, Accounts 5912 and 4383. This action will not result in a change in the need for facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please return a minute order and one signed original Agreement to the Department, attention: Dawn McGrew.

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Risk Management