



**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 6, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Department of Social Services Director
Director(s): (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Deputy Director Adult and Children Services
(805) 346-8227

SUBJECT: Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County Agreement for
Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services

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 for Services of an Independent Contractor with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (CAC) in the amount not to exceed \$180,000 for Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (Attachment 1); and
- b) Determine that the approval and execution of the Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the approval and 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:

This item is on the agenda for the approval of the Agreement with CAC for Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services (Reunification Services). Contracting out this essential service assists the Department of Social Services (DSS) in meeting our System Improvement Plan and goal to successfully reunify families and exit children in foster care in an expedient manner which is also in alignment with the Federal Outcome Measure for Timely Reunification. It is the recommendation of DSS to authorize and execute an Agreement with this vendor.

Background:

For families involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS), Reunification Services aid in the facilitation of successful family reunification. One of the Enhanced Family Reunification Support 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.

On January 11, 2017, DSS released a Request For Proposal seeking a provider to facilitate the delivery of Reunification Services to CWS clients i.e. foster youth, adoptive parents, birth parents, and foster parents in order to promote safe and stable families. DSS received one proposal for funding. Following a comprehensive evaluation, DSS recommends a contract for award to CAC. CAC has been the provider of these services since 2008.

Performance Measures:

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 FY16/17)

- 95% of the referrals received were responded to by CAC within three business days to schedule the first appointment. (Target =100%)
- 100% of compliance by participants in attending scheduled appointments with their assigned social worker. (Target =99%)

- 100% of completed activities was reported in an e-mail to the assigned social worker and documented in the CWS/CMS (Child Welfare Services/Case Management System) by the next business day 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:

- 98% 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 and documented in the CWS/CMS by the next business day of the completed family visitation.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>FY 17-18 Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going costs Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			\$ 54,000
State - 2011RE			\$ 126,000
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total			\$ 180,000

Narrative:

Approval and execution of this Agreement will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$180,000. Appropriations and associated funding for FY 2017-18 are included in the DSS recommended budget under the Social Service Programs division. This Agreement 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.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
None

FTEs:
None

Special Instructions:

Please send one (1) duplicate original Agreement and one (1) copy of the minute order to:
Department of Social Services
Attn: Sofia Hadjeri
Contracts Coordinator, 3rd Floor
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Agreement – Community Action Commission – Enhanced Family Reunification Services

Authored by:

Sofia Hadjeri, Contracts Coordinator
Jennifer Cera, Department Business Specialist, Adult and Children Services