



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: 05/17/11
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kathy M. Gallagher, Director (805) 346-7101
Director:
Contact Info: Melissa Hoesterey, Operations Division Chief (805) 346-7248

SUBJECT: Agreement with Community Action Commission 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:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Community Action Commission (CAC) for the purpose of Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services in the amount of \$150,000 for the period 7/1/11 through 6/30/12.

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 would be 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 141 visits per month with the majority of these occurring after-hours (evenings), weekends, and holidays.

Background:

The Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability Act (AB 636) adopted in 2001 mandates improvements in California’s Child Welfare System. In compliance with AB 636, each county prepared a System Improvement Plan (SIP). Santa Barbara’s County’s most recent SIP has two (2) priority outcomes. Priority Area One (1): Safety. Santa Barbara Child Welfare Services (CWS) is committed to the goal of protecting children from abuse and neglect. Priority Area Two (2): Permanency and Stability. Permanency and Stability are crucial factors in “normal” child development and key to providing good outcomes for children. 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. Parents have the fundamental right to direct the care, custody, and control of their children and it is presumed that until or unless proven otherwise, they will act in a child’s best interest. Contracting out this much needed service in Santa Barbara County will allow DSS to focus on the SIP improvement goal to reduce the length of time 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.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes **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		\$ 45,000	
State		\$ 105,000	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total		\$ 150,000	

Narrative:

Approval and execution of this contract will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$150,000. Appropriations and associated funding for FY 2011-2012 are included in the Department of Social Services recommended budget under the Social Service Programs division. This contract is 70% State funded and 30% County funded. Appropriations and associated funding will be included in Department's FY 2012-2013 budget request if the contract is extended for the respective year. The same would apply to FY 2013-2014 if extended for a third year. The Agreement contains a non-appropriation clause in the event funds are not appropriated. The costs associated with the extension would continue to be 70% State funded and 30% County funded.

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: Linda Rodriguez-Contracts Coordinator
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Attachments:

Agreement of Independent Contractor

Authored by:

Melissa Hoesterey