



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 25, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director  
Director(s) (805) 346-7101  
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Social Services Assistant Director  
(805) 346-8351  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Agreements with Aspiranet, Kids and Families Together, Pathway Family Services, Inc. and Seneca Family of Agencies for Child Welfare Services Family Evaluation Services

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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 an Agreement with Aspiranet (local vendor) to provide Family Evaluation Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$110,800 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Kids & Families Together (local vendor) to provide Family Evaluation Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$71,200 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Pathway Family Services, Inc. (local vendor) to provide Family Evaluation Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$137,400 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;
- d) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Seneca Family of Agencies (local vendor) to provide Family Evaluation Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$91,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and

- e) 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 activities are an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

These items are on the agenda in order to approve the agreements with Aspiranet for a total contract amount not to exceed \$110,800; Kids and Families Together for a total contract amount not to exceed \$71,200; Pathway Family Services, Inc. (Pathway) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$137,400 and Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$91,000; to provide Family Evaluation Services (FES) for the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

**Background:**

DSS has a need for FES to be completed in both English and/or Spanish for both matched and unmatched families participating in the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. The goal is to provide permanency for dependent children in a timely and efficient manner.

The RFA process involves assessing families for placement of dependent children including non-minor dependents, and requires completion of a comprehensive assessment that includes evaluating the applicant family’s ability to honor a child’s natural connections; to parent a child in a family setting; to provide a safe, nurturing and stable home; and to provide permanence or prepare a child for permanence. A primary component of the comprehensive assessment is a family evaluation of the resource family.

The family evaluation is an assessment that creates a comprehensive picture of the family by exploring the applicant’s family dynamics and characteristics, including mental, physical, and emotional health. This assessment helps to identify the family’s structure, values, discipline practice, coping strategies, strengths, and motivation to become a resource family. The family evaluations will also include an assessment of the family and willingness to adapt and accommodate the needs of the children, youth, and non-minor dependents. The contractor will provide a recommendation based on their written family narrative and assessment that clearly supports whether a prospective applicant should be approved or denied as well as the services or additional training that may be needed for the family to best meet the needs of children, youth, or non-minor dependents in out-of-home care.

A request for proposals was released on January 25, 2024, requesting proposals from a Foster Family Agency interested in providing FES. As a result four (4) proposals for funding were received by the submittal due date of March 7, 2024. Following a comprehensive evaluation, agreements were recommended for award to Aspiranet, Kids and Families Together, Pathway and Seneca in order to meet the increasing needs for resource families.

**Performance Measure:**

*The following performance measures are included in the Agreements with all Contractors for FES:*

CONTRACTOR shall:

1. Contact applicants within seven (7) workdays of receipt of referral 98% of the time.
2. Complete and submit Family Evaluation within 45 days of receiving a referral from the COUNTY on the condition that the family cooperates in a timely fashion 90% of the time.

3. Provide monthly report of the number of completed and in-progress Family Evaluations and monthly invoices to the COUNTY by the 15th of the month following the provision of services.

Aspiranet, Pathway, and Seneca are current providers of these services and have demonstrated substantial conformity with the current performance measures included in the agreement.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding sources	Kids & Families Together		Pathway Family Services		Seneca	Total
	Aspiranet	Together	Services			
General Fund	\$ 16,620	\$ 10,680	\$ 20,610	\$ 13,650	\$	61,560
State	22,160	14,240	27,480	18,200		82,080
State: Realignment	39,888	25,632	49,464	32,760		147,744
Federal	32,132	20,648	39,846	26,390		119,016
Fees						
Other:						-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 110,800</b>	<b>\$ 71,200</b>	<b>\$ 137,400</b>	<b>\$ 91,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>410,400</b>

Narrative:

Approval and execution of the proposed agreements will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$410,400 in FY 2024-25. Appropriations and associated funding for FY 2024-25 are included in the DSS recommended budget under the Social Service Programs division. These agreements will be funded with 29% federal sources, 20% state sources, 36% 2011 Realignment, and 15% County General Fund dollars. The agreements contain a non-appropriation clause in the event funds are not appropriated.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The risk assessment worksheet has been completed and DSS has determined that Aspiranet, Kids and Families Together, Pathway and Seneca are medium risk vendors. The County has experience with Aspiranet, Pathway and Seneca, and is confident of their ability to provide services.

**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 Nereida Zarate  
 2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Santa Maria, CA 93455  
 Email: nzarate@countyofsb.org

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment 1 – Agreement – Aspiranet – FES
2. Attachment 2 – Agreement – Kids and Families Together – FES
3. Attachment 3 – Agreement – Pathway – FES
4. Attachment 4 – Agreement – Seneca – FES

**Authored by:**

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Marianne Reagan, Adult and Children Services Operations Division Chief  
Nereida Zarate, Contracts Coordinator