

# 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:** 5/2/05  
**Department Name:** Social Services  
**Department No.:** 044  
**Agenda Date:** 6/28/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kathy Gallagher, Director  
Social Services Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** William LaRocco  
x6019

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Community Action Commission - The Front Porch Project  
to provide Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Services.

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Community Action Commission, amending an existing purchasing contract to provide child abuse prevention and early intervention services for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006 in an amount not to exceed \$190,705.82.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

Contracting with the Community Action Commission is primarily aligned with the Board's strategic plan goals numbers I: Efficient Government – An efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community; and 7: Families and Children – A community that fosters the safety and well-being of families and children.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

In September of 2003, the Department of Social Services contracted with Community Action Commission to develop The Front Porch Project, in effort to provide Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Services. The Front Porch Project is this county's response to the State's call for new strategies for the community and responsible agencies (Child Welfare Services) to assist families who are "at risk". This is known statewide as the "Differential Response" in the State's redesign effort now called Child Welfare Improvement Program. The Front Porch Project provides intervention services to families who are considered "at risk", but not rising to the level of a Child Welfare Services (CWS) referral. The Front Porch

Project is a community resource that follows families to assist CWS with insuring child safety. If the family situation deteriorates, Front Porch can refer back to CWS for investigation. The second component of The Front Porch Project is to educate families in “at risk” neighborhoods about the laws regarding child abuse and neglect. Education is provided to the communities through parenting groups to Migrant Education, Healthy Start, Head Start, the Fatherhood Program, and the Hippie Literacy Program.

The contract was originally funded for \$45,000 which allowed for one full-time person to serve as the Coordinator of this project. In late 2004, the decision was made to expand the project to the Santa Barbara region. The contract was inadvertently increased to \$73,000 instead of the intended \$118,000 as approved by the KIDS Network Board. Social Services requests that your Board approve the increased amount of \$38,587.82 to cover the 2004/2005 expenditures and an additional \$79,118 for the 2005/2006 fiscal year for a total contract amount of \$190,705.82. Although the KIDS Network approved funding in the amount of \$197,152.00 for the two fiscal years (04/05 & 05/06), the vendor only submitted expenses totaling \$190,705.82.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

This program meets the State’s interest under Child Welfare Improvement as a Differential Response to education and early intervention with families who are at risk. We began the program in Santa Maria to test effectiveness and to gain some experience in how a community based organization would respond to providing an educational program and to work with “at risk” families while coordinating their efforts with Child Welfare. The program was successful and so it was determined to expand the program to South County and increase services to the Central County area.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

A request for the additional funds was not made in July; because we were not assured of approval for the increase until September 2004 when the KIDS Network Policy Council approved the increase to \$118,000.00. The \$118,000 costs of the CAC contract in included in the approved 2004/2005 KIDS Network budget and the additional \$79,152 for 2005/2006 was approved by the KIDS Network Policy Council in May 2005.

**Attachments:**

- 2004/2005 Approved KIDS Network Budget.
- Agreement for services for Independent Contractor
- Purchasing Contract CN 01157

**Special Instructions:**

After execution by the Chair, please return one (1) originally signed agreement, and one (1) copy of the minute order to the Department of Social Services, Attention: Diane Klopp.

**Concurrence:**

Auditor/Controller  
County Counsel  
Risk Management

