



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 16, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Marianne Reagan, Adult and Children Services Operations Manager
(805) 681-4529
SUBJECT: Approval of Agreements with Aspiranet, Pathway Family Services, Inc. and Seneca Family of Agencies for Child Welfare Services Family Evaluation 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 with Aspiranet (local vendor) to provide Family Evaluation Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
- b) 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 \$160,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
- c) 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 \$80,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; and
- d) 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 activity is 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 \$60,000; Pathway Family Services, Inc. (Pathway) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$160,000 and Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$80,000; to provide Family Evaluation Services for the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Background:

DSS has a need for Family Evaluation Services (formerly Permanency Assessment Services) 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 7, 2020, requesting proposals from a Foster Family Agency interested in providing Family Evaluation Services. As a result three (3) proposals for funding were received by the submittal due date of February 18, 2020. Following a comprehensive evaluation, Agreements are recommended for award to Aspiranet, Pathway and Seneca in order to meet the increasing needs for resource families.

Performance Measure: Pathway, Aspiranet and Seneca are current providers of these services and have demonstrated substantial conformity with the current performance measures as indicated below:

The following performance measures are included in the current Agreements with all Contractors for the Permanency Assessment Services Program:

- Contractor will make contact with applicants within ten (10) work days of receipt of referral 98% of the time. (Objective Met – 100% as of Q3 FY 2019/2020)
- With family cooperation, Contractor will complete permanency assessments within 60 days of receiving a referral from the County 90% of the time. (Objective Met – 100% as of Q3 FY 2019/2020)

- Contractor will provide monthly client update reports and monthly invoices to the County by the 15th of the month following the provision of services. (Objective Met – 100% as of Q3 FY 2019/2020)

The Performance Measures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021 have been updated as follows:

Performance Measures for the Family Evaluation Services Program:

- Contractor will make contact with applicants within seven (7) work days of receipt of referral 98% of the time.
- With family cooperation, Contractor will complete family evaluation within 45 days of receiving a referral from the County 90% of the time.
- Contractor will provide monthly client update report and monthly invoice to the County by the 15th of the month following the provision of services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY2020/2021		Total One-Time Project Cost
	Cost:	On-going Cost:	
General Fund	\$ 196,221		
State	\$ 18,426		
Federal	\$ 85,353		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Approval and execution of this Agreement will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$300,000 in FY 2020/2021. Appropriations and associated funding for FY 2020/2021 are included in the DSS recommended budget under the Social Service Programs division.

This Agreement would normally be funded with 29% federal sources, 6% state, 46% state 2011 Realignment funds and 19% county funds. However, because of the decline in sales tax revenue (source of 2011 Realignment revenue) due to the impacts of COVID-19, one-time general fund funding has been provided to offset the loss.

As a result, this Agreement will be funded with 29% federal sources, 6% state, and 65% 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 and DSS has determined that Aspiranet, Pathway and Seneca are medium risk vendors. The County has experience with them and is confident of their ability to provide services.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

None

None

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, 3rd Floor

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 - Agreement – Aspiranet – Family Evaluation Services
2. Attachment 2 - Agreement – Pathway – Family Evaluation Services
3. Attachment 3 - Agreement – Seneca – Family Evaluation Services

Authored by:

Marianne Reagan, Adult and Children Services Operations Division Chief

Nereida Zarate, Contracts Coordinator