



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: 6/28/22
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Director (805) 346-7101
Director(s)
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Adult and Children Services Deputy Director (805) 346-8351
SUBJECT: Agreement with Child Abuse Listening and Mediation for Child Welfare Services Differential Response/Front Porch Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

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 Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (local vendor) to provide Child Welfare Services Differential Response/Front Porch Program services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and
- b) 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:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve the Agreement with Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM) to provide Child Welfare Services (CWS) Differential Response (DR)/Front Porch Program Services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Background:

Front Porch is Santa Barbara County's DR Program which connects families with children who are identified as at risk of child abuse and neglect to needed community-based services for the purpose of early intervention and prevention services. The targeted population will be families whose children are at low/moderate or high/very high risk of danger in their home, who are in need of community based prevention services, assessment, case management/case navigation and aftercare services to promote parental competencies, strengthen families and prevent entry or re-entry into the CWS system.

DR is an approach that is guided by the belief that children are best served in the home with parents by providing services that include, but are not limited to, family engagement, early intervention and prevention efforts and community partnership. DR allows child welfare agencies to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect with different levels of intervention, specific to the level of need of each child and family.

Core values common to DR as opposed to traditional CWS response include:

- Family engagement versus adversarial approach
- Services versus surveillance
- Labeling families as "in need of services/support" versus "perpetrators"
- Changing community perception of CWS from "threatening" to "encouraging"
- Changing community perception of CWS from "punishing" to "supporting"
- Utilizing a continuum of responses versus "one size fits all"

Since inception, Front Porch has connected families to needed community based services for the purpose of early intervention and prevention services. Front Porch has been an approach to ensuring safety by expanding the ability of child welfare to respond to reports of possible child abuse and neglect. Involvement occurs through innovative community partnerships that help support families in need before further problems develop. DR services are to be offered to residents who live in all areas of Santa Barbara County.

Performance Measure:

The following performance measures will be included in the current Agreement.

1. 80% of the families who engage in DR services will show an increase in pre/post family assessment scores, using the Family Development Matrix.
2. 95% of all referrals to the DR program will not have a subsequent substantiated child abuse and neglect referral within 3, 6 and 12 months.
3. 90% of families will be contacted by CALM within three business days of initial referral.
4. 80% of families who complete DR services will indicate "Satisfied" level of satisfaction as measured by the Family Satisfaction Survey administered at the end of services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FY2022/23 Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ 200,000.00		
Total	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Approval and execution of this contract will result in total direct contract expenditures of no more than \$200,000. Appropriations and funding for Fiscal Year 2022/23 are included in the DSS recommended budget under the Social Programs division. This contract will be fully funded by the SB 163 Wraparound Program Reserve Funds.

Execution of this contract will not result in additional General Fund contributions. 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 CALM is a medium risk vendor. CALM is insured for General and Professional Liability. CALM has been providing Front Porch services since 2006. The County has experience with CALM and is confident of their ability to provide services.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:	FTEs:
0	0

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 Tricia Beebe
 2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, 3rd Floor
 Santa Maria, CA 93455
 Email: tbeebe@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Agreement – CALM – Front Porch

Authored by:

Marianne Reagan, ACS Operations Division Chief
 Tricia Beebe, Contracts Coordinator