



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: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
For Agenda Of: January 12, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney, x82308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, x82303

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2020-21 Agreement with CALM for Sexual Assault Response Team

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, ratify and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement for Services with Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM) to provide forensic interviews for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$127,635; and
- b) Determine that the above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b) (4), because it consists of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a countywide multi-disciplinary effort focused on providing services to both child and adult sexual assault victims. The District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program maintains administrative oversight for the SART program, which facilitates forensic medical and legal services to sexual assault victims in Santa Barbara County. The District Attorney's Office contracts with CALM for these services. Although the SART Program provides services to both child and adult sexual assault victims, the majority of the services under this contract are provided to children. This contract is for the services of a SART Coordinator, expert Forensic Interviewers, and supplemental post-interview therapeutic services.

CALM's SART Program currently has five experienced Child Forensic Interviewers and one SART Coordinator. The Child Forensic Interviewers are routinely available to conduct forensic interviews for children who are suspected victims of child abuse, three of whom are bilingual. These five expert Forensic Interviewers are readily available 24/7 to respond to law enforcement requests. In the context of child abuse, the purpose of a forensic interview is to obtain information for investigation and prosecution.

The SART Coordinator serves and acts as a liaison between law enforcement and CALM's forensic interviewers, and also facilitates communication and the sharing of information between all 19 SART members. In addition, the SART Coordinator also implements and facilitates a variety of inter-agency strategies to coordinate a comprehensive response to sexual abuse including a Policy Council, regular case review meetings, case tracking, an advisory committee, and SART protocol.

Prior to Fiscal Year 2019-20, the SART Coordinator was employed by the District Attorney's Office as a Contractor on Payroll (COP). At the time, the SART program budget only provided enough funding to partially fund the SART Coordinator. However, the District Attorney identified additional needs for the SART program, and secured grant funding from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the Child Advocacy Center (KC) program. The KC grant continues to supplement the existing SART program, and funds the cost of the SART Coordinator and forensic interviews. As of Fiscal Year 2019-20, the SART Coordinator is a CALM employee rather than a District Attorney COP.

The District Attorney's Office has historically renewed its contract with CALM via the annual purchasing contract renewal process facilitated by General Services' Purchasing Division. However, upon submitting our annual CALM contract renewal for Fiscal Year 2020-21, we were informed that the total countywide contract amount paid to CALM already exceeded \$3 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2020-21. As a result, we were directed to renew our contract with CALM via the Board Contract process.

Background:

Initiated in 1986, the SART program is a collaborative effort that now involves 20 participating agencies, departments and hospitals dedicated to ensuring that adult and child sexual abuse survivors receive comprehensive services tailored to their unique needs. The concept of this program is to provide multi-disciplinary services and facilities that will promptly and sensitively treat victims of sexual assault or abuse. SART partners actively participate in case review consultations to ensure victims are provided with comprehensive and appropriate medical, legal and social services.

Over the past 32 years, the scope has evolved from a single site adjacent to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital to include additional facilities in Lompoc and Santa Maria, all of which are owned by the local area hospital. Each facility offers a safe, child-friendly location that is specifically equipped to enable the SART team to conduct thorough medical examinations and forensic interviews, and provide on-site treatment, emotional support, advocacy, and counseling referrals for victims and their families. These efforts have been the result of public-private partnerships that locate and furnish sites in ways that will offer prompt and responsive victim services. Timely responses ensure effective and efficient outcomes through a coordinated multi-disciplinary forensic-legal model. Ultimately, this achieves SART's primary goal of facilitating the recovery of adult and child sexual assault victims and their families.

The District Attorney has maintained administrative oversight of the SART program since January 2008. Upon assuming administrative oversight of the program, significant improvements were made including

an expansion of medical examinations and child forensic interviews, development of a funding strategy to assure sustainable infrastructure, services, and centralized service coordination oversight. The District Attorney continues to provide the countywide leadership role needed to coordinate the program, with centralized administrative responsibilities. The Victim Witness Program Director maintains programmatic oversight, and has extensive experience managing grant programs.

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			
State			
Federal	\$ 112,635.00	\$ 112,635.00	
Fees			
Other:	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Total	\$ 127,635.00	\$ 127,635.00	\$ -

The CALM SART contract is funded by Cal OES KC grant, in addition to a per capita contribution from the SART law enforcement partners: the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Maria.

Key Contract Risks:

The District Attorney has administered this program since 2008. There is minimal risk to the County.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall post the Notice of Exemption upon Board approval. Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order
- b) One (1) Fully Executed original of the contract
- c) One (1) copy of the approved Notice of Exemption

Attachments:

- a) Fiscal Year 2020-21 Agreement with CALM
- b) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

John DeAlba Department Business Specialist (x82434)