



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Human Services Agency

DATE: June 8, 2007
BOARD MEETING DATE: June 26, 2007
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Beverly Beasley Johnson, J.D., Director, Human Services Agency
Jerry Lindner, Interim Director, Children and Family Services

SUBJECT: Agreement with Family Service Agency

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution:

- A) Waiving the Request for Proposal (RFP) process;
- B) Authorizing the execution of an Agreement with Family Service Agency (FSA) to provide Child Welfare Support Services for FY 2007-08, for the term July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$324,664 of which \$227,265 is Net County Cost; and
- C) Authorizing the Director of the Human Services Agency or the Director's designee to execute contract amendments which modify the County's maximum fiscal obligation by no more than \$25,000 (in aggregate), and/or modify the contract term and/or services so long as the modified term or services is/are within the current or revised fiscal provisions.

VISION ALIGNMENT:

Commitment: Ensure basic health and safety for all.

Goal 6: Children grow up healthy in safe and supportive homes and neighborhoods.

This Agreement contributes to this commitment and goal since FSA will provide supervised visits and receive feedback regarding parents' progress, strengths and weaknesses which are beneficial information as Child Welfare staff work towards family reunification.

Performance Measure(s):

Measure	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Projected
Number of supervised visitation hours.	846	2,340
Percent of the families move on to stable situations at the conclusion of service.	67%	70%

BACKGROUND:

In April 1991, the Board of Supervisors selected FSA of San Mateo County, a local nonprofit organization, to operate a facility or “safe place” for supervising family visits for abused or neglected children and their parents. In the last 15 years, there have been enhancements made to the supervised visitation program to respond to the increasing needs of the families.

On May 8, 2006, the Human Services Agency (HSA) released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Child Welfare Support Services that included therapeutic and regular supervised visitation, supervised exchanges, transportation and child watch services. FSA was the sole applicant of the RFP and was recommended to provide Child Welfare Support Services to clients served by Children and Family Services (CFS).

DISCUSSION:

This Agreement with FSA will continue Child Welfare Support Services for FY 2007-08. Supervised visitation is a significant factor in the safe reunification or in planning another permanent home for the child. Trained visitation monitors will observe the visit, evaluate the relationship and quality of parent-child interactions, and provide feedback to the Social Worker. The visitation monitors will work closely with the family and train the parents on positive parenting techniques. FSA will continue to provide child watch and transportation to allow birth, foster and adoptive parents to attend court-mandated training such as parenting classes and HSA sponsored meetings such as support groups and the quarterly Strengthening Partnership Conference. Providing these supports will help parents comply with court orders and ensure a timely and successful reunification.

It is in the County’s best interest to waive the RFP process since FSA was the only one that expressed an interest in providing these services in response to the earlier RFP process; and has successfully met the court’s demands by providing these services to the families served by CFS. FSA has the expertise and experience to conduct these services and has worked closely and collaboratively with HSA on improving the effectiveness of reunification.

The contractor has assured compliance with the County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Ordinance, as well as all other contract provisions that are required by County ordinance and administrative memoranda, including but not limited to insurance, hold harmless, non-discrimination and equal benefits. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and Agreement as to form and Risk Management has approved Contractor’s insurance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the Agreement is July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The total obligation under this Agreement is \$324,664, of which, \$97,399 is funded through Child Welfare Services Funds and \$227,265 is Net County Cost. Funds have been budgeted in the FY 2007-08 Recommended Budget.