



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Human Services Agency



Date: September 18, 2012
Board Meeting Date: October 23, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Beverly Beasley Johnson, JD, Director, Human Services Agency

Subject: Agreement with Pyramid Alternatives

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Pyramid Alternatives for supervised visitation services for the term of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 in the amount of \$153,400.

BACKGROUND:

San Mateo County Children & Family Services investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect reported to the Child Abuse Hotline. Children in imminent danger may be removed from the parents' custody and placed in out-of-home care by Juvenile court. While the child is placed out-of-home, Juvenile Court must address the issue of visitation with the parents, siblings, grandparents, and other relatives. In cases where Juvenile Court has concern about the safety of the child during visitation, supervised visitation will be ordered.

Supervised visitation allows parents to maintain contact with their children while providing some degree of protection for the children and youth. Supervised visitation programs provide a third person to monitor visits between parent and child so that the interaction is healthy and the child is safe from further abuse or coercion by the parent. Visitation monitors watch the entire visit, intervene if necessary, and give written feedback about the visits to the social worker who made the referral.

On August 13, 2012, the Human Services Agency (HSA) did an affidavit of publication in the San Mateo Daily Journal for Business Opportunity for Supervised Visitation Services. HSA received one letter of interest from Pyramid Alternatives (PA).

DISCUSSION:

The agreement with PA will provide supervised visitation services to children who are dependents of the Juvenile Court with their parents, sibling, grandparents, guardian, and other relatives. PA will work as monitors, intervening when necessary, to provide a safe place for parent/child contact. PA will also report visitation observations to the Children and Family Services (CFS) social worker working with the family.

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 agreement and Resolution as to form and the Contractor meets insurance certification requirements.

Approval of this agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Prosperous Community by ensuring children who have been removed from their homes have safe and meaningful visits with parents and other relatives, with the ultimate goal of family reunification. It is anticipated that 1,300 visits will be scheduled and 90% of these visits will be completed.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2012-13 Projected	FY 2013-14 Projected
Percent of families referred to Pyramid Alternatives actually scheduled for visits	90%	N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this agreement is October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. The total amount of the agreement is \$153,400, of which \$107,100 is funded through State Realignment and Federal funds. Of this amount \$45,900 is Net County Cost. Funds for this agreement have been included in the FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget.