



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Human Services Agency



Date: August 15, 2013
Board Meeting Date: September 17, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: Amendment to the Agreement with Pyramid Alternatives

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Pyramid Alternatives to provide supervised visitation services, extending the term through September 30, 2014, increasing the amount by \$153,400 to \$306,800.

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. Juvenile Court must address the issue of visitation with the parents, siblings, grandparents, and other relatives while the child is placed out-of-home. In cases where Juvenile Court has concern about the safety of the child during visitation, supervised visitation is ordered.

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

On October 23, 2012, this Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution # 072226 allowing the Human Services Agency to enter into an agreement with Pyramid Alternatives (PA) for supervised visitation.

DISCUSSION

This amendment to the agreement is adding funds and extending the term of the agreement for twelve (12) months for PA to continue supervised visitation services to children who are dependents of the Juvenile Court and their parents, siblings, grandparents, guardian, and other relatives. PA will work as monitors and provide a safe place visitation, will work with families to monitor interaction and intervene when necessary, and will report 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 amendment and Resolution as to form and the Contractor meets the insurance certification requirement.

Approval of this amendment to the 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 98% of these visits will result in family reunification.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Percent of families that are reunified after receiving services from Pyramid Alternatives	95%	98%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this amendment to the agreement is extended for twelve (12) months, from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2014. The amended amount is \$153,400 for a new total of \$306,800. Of the amended amount, \$107,380 (70%) is funded through State Realignment and Federal funds and \$46,020 (30%) is Net County Cost. Funds have been included in the FY 2013-14 Tentatively Adopted Budget. There has been no change in the cost of services.