



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Human Services Agency



Date: May 16, 2016
Board Meeting Date: June 21, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Iliana Rodriguez, Director, Human Services Agency

Subject: Second Amendment to the Agreement with StarVista for Family Stabilization Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with StarVista to increase the funding for the continuation of family stabilization services, extending the term by six months to December 31, 2016 and increasing the amount by \$230,000 to a total not to exceed amount of \$790,000.

BACKGROUND:

The passage of AB74 (2013) modified the Welfare and Institutions Code to include a new "Family Stabilization" (FS) component to the CalWORKs program. The intent of FS is to provide intensive case management and barrier removal services to clients that meet program criteria: homelessness, domestic violence, and alcohol/drug abuse. California counties are mandated to implement the FS component and its associated services. In San Mateo County, FS services became a component under the Welfare to Work program. The goal of FS is to increase client success through more intensive case management, and other barrier removal services necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. Participants in the program will not have hourly participation requirements commonly associated with the 24 month Welfare to Work program, and have the option to suspend the clock for up to six months.

A significant difference between the FS program and services clients might otherwise receive in Welfare to Work is the increased level and intensity of case management. Specifically, FS case managers (CMs) must have a lower caseload, enabling CMs to provide more intensive services and have more frequent contact with clients. StarVista provides the required intensive case management and barrier removal services and is responsible for working with the long-term sanctioned population (individuals/families whose aid has been reduced due to non-compliance with the Welfare to Work program) as well as individuals/families that have active cases with Employment Services

Specialists. These cases have been difficult to engage in the Welfare to Work program and/or have openly declared a “life instance” which would qualify them for Family Stabilization (as defined as domestic violence, substance abuse, or mental health diagnosis). StarVista case managers and clinicians partner to conduct multiple home-visits and provide each individual/family with a significant amount of time and attention in order to fully assess the barriers in the household and subsequently work to remove those barriers.

On June 19, 2015, the Director of the Human Services Agency (HSA) entered into a department level agreement with StarVista to provide start-up costs for FS services in the amount of \$100,000 for the term of March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The start-up costs were used to implement the FS program and determine the future model of the program. Subsequent amendments increased funding by \$460,000 to an amount not to exceed \$560,000 with no change to the term of the agreement, and added two (2) full-time clinicians.

DISCUSSION:

This amendment adds funds for the continuation of FS services and extends the term by six months while HSA evaluates services under the program and prepares to release a Request for Proposals (RFP). HSA intends to have a new contract in place starting January 2017.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the amendment and resolution as to form.

This amendment contributes to the Shared Vision of 2025 outcome of a Prosperous Community by providing safe and supportive homes and neighborhoods for children in San Mateo County through the Family Stabilization initiative. Additionally, FS promotes CalWORKs Family Engagement as the FS services will strive to ensure that families that “graduate” from the program are prepared for full-time employment and/or education activities. It is anticipated that 70% of families receiving FS services will meet or exceed the goals identified in their service plans and that 70% of engaged families will have their needs met by community resources at the time their case closes.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2015-16 Estimated	FY 2016-17 Projected
Percent of families receiving FS services that will meet or exceed the goals identified in their service plans	70%	70%
Percent of engaged families that have their needs met by community resources at closing	70%	70%

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The amendment extends the term of the agreement by six months, with a new end date of December 31, 2016. This amendment also adds \$230,000 to the agreement amount for a total not to exceed amount of \$790,000. The amended agreement is fully funded by the CalWORKS Family Stabilization Allocation and is part of the FY 2016-17 Recommended Budget. Any costs exceeding the Family Stabilization Allocation are eligible to be claimed under the CalWORKS Single Allocation. There is no net county cost.