



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

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**Department:** HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**File #:** 18-109

Board Meeting Date: 2/13/2018

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**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Nicole Pollack, Interim Agency Director, Human Services Agency  
**Subject:** **Measure K:** Amendment to the Agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates of San Mateo County for Training

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Measure K:** Adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates of San Mateo County to provide court advocacy to San Mateo County dependent children, increasing the amount by \$108,211 for a total amount not to exceed \$424,482 and extending the agreement by one year, for a new term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The County entered into an Agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates on June 16, 2015 by resolution 073842 for a total obligation of \$208,060 and a term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. A subsequent Amendment extended the term to June 30, 2018 and increased the total by \$108,211 to \$316,271. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Mateo County pairs caring community volunteers with dependent children. Each CASA volunteer is appointed by the Juvenile Court to represent the best interests of the child and to advocate for services to meet the child's needs. CASA facilitates effective collaboration among families, social workers, and community partners to support the well-being of dependent children.

### **DISCUSSION:**

This amendment extends the term by one year and adds funds to allow CASA to continue to provide court-advocacy services to San Mateo County dependent children. CASA will train and support community volunteers who are appointed by the Juvenile Court to develop a relationship with a dependent, and to investigate, report, and advocate on behalf of children and youth. For FY 2018-19, CASA will focus on conducting targeted recruitment of volunteers willing to provide advocacy services to dependent children placed outside of San Mateo County.

The resolution contains the County's standard provisions allowing Amendment of the County's fiscal obligations by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The amendment and resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form. A three (3) year waiver has been approved by the County Procurement Manager for this Agreement. This amendment contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Prosperous Community providing San Mateo County dependent children with a CASA volunteer who will advocate for them and their best interests throughout their Juvenile Court matter, and serve as a consistent supportive adult for the child. For fiscal year 2017-2018, it is anticipated that 365 children will receive court advocacy services. Based on a mailed and/or electronic anonymous survey, of those youth who receive CASA services for one year and respond to the survey, 85% will report feeling supported by their CASA worker in fiscal year 2017-18. It is also anticipated that a CASA volunteer will be present at court hearings for 95% of children (346 children) during fiscal year 2017 - 18.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

Measure	FY 2017 - 18	FY 2018- 19
Based on a mailed and/or electronic anonymous survey, of those youth who receive CASA services for one year and respond to the survey, the percentage of youth who will report feeling supported by their CASA worker.	85%	87%
Percent increase in the number of children who receive court-advocacy services.	N/A - baseline (estimated, 365 children)	5% (estimated, 383 children)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the Agreement is extended to June 30, 2019. The amount of the Agreement is increased by \$108,211 for a total obligation of \$424,482. This Agreement is 100% Net County Cost. Of the amended amount, it is anticipated that 100% will be funded by **Measure K** Sales & Use tax revenue. The \$316,271 has been included in the FY2017 - 18 Adopted Budget and the \$108,211 has been included in the FY2018 - 19 Recommended Budget.