

County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency

Department of Development & Operational Planning
Office of Contracts Management



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DATE: May 19, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: Approve Delegation of Authority to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Catholic Charities to Provide Supervised Intensive Intervention Visitation Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve delegation of authority to the Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Catholic Charities relating to the provision of supervised intensive intervention visitation services provided by the Kindred Souls Intensive Intervention Visitation Program for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, with the option of two additional one-year terms following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2012.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The MOU does not involve the exchange of funds.

CONTRACT HISTORY

On January 2, 2001, the Social Services Agency, Daybreak Childcare Network and Catholic Charities entered into a MOU relating to the establishment of protocols for the provision of supervised intensive intervention visitation services (by Catholic Charities) and non-intensive supervised visitation services (by Daybreak Childcare Network, Inc.) pursuant to the approval of delegation of the authority by the Board of Supervisors to the Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, on January 23, 2001. The transmittal did not state an expiration date for the delegation of authority.

On March 1, 2005, the Social Services Agency, Bill Wilson Center, and Catholic Charities entered into a MOU of the same nature. Bill Wilson Center replaced Daybreak Childcare Network, Inc. Beginning January 31, 2007, Bill Wilson Center terminated their involvement in the supervised visitation program. Thus, the Social Services Agency amended the MOU to contract with Catholic Charities exclusively for the provision of supervised intensive intervention visitation services with an effective date of February 1, 2007. The current delegation of authority for this MOU expires on June 30, 2009.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with the Board of Supervisors policy for entering into an Agreement, the Social Services Agency is requesting delegation of authority to enter into a MOU with Catholic Charities for the Kindred Souls Intensive Intervention Visitation Program. Delegation of Authority will allow the Social Services Agency director, or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend, and terminate a new MOU and make amendments throughout its duration without an interruption in services.

BACKGROUND

The Social Services Agency has had a long standing relationship with Catholic Charities and the County Mental Health Department to implement and sustain an intensive therapeutic child supervision service for families whose children are in foster home placements under the supervision of the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS). Located at the Clover House Visitation Center, children with Medi-Cal and their families referred to the program by DFCS are in the process of family reunification and require a high level of clinical services to facilitate a safe and positive visitation. Catholic Charities mental health providers develop therapeutic visitation goals with the family and utilize coaching/modeling of parenting techniques to enhance the parent/child interaction.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Negative action will result in the Social Services Agency's inability to enter into a MOU with Catholic Charities which will result in a loss of therapeutic supervised visitation services.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will follow the usual steps for a transmittal of this type. The Social Services Agency Director, or designee will negotiate and execute a MOU with Catholic Charities and forward a copy to the Clerk of the Board within 30 days of execution.