

# County of Sonoma

## Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

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Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:**

**Human Services Department**

**4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**

**Nick Honey**

**Phone:**

**(707) 565-4343**

**Board Date:**

**June 23, 2009**

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Children's Services Provider Agreement Amendment

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Authorize the Director of Human Services, or her designee, to execute an amendment to increase funding for Start Here Family Coaching for fiscal year 08/09 (\$25,000.00) for a total of \$50,000 for the fiscal year.

### CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

Estimated Cost	\$	25,000.00	Contingencies	\$	000.00
			(Fund Name: )		
Amount Budgeted	\$	25,000.00	Unanticipated Revenue	\$	000.00
			(Source: )		
Other Available Approp. (Explain Below)	\$	000.00	Other Transfer(s)		000.00
			(Source: )	\$	
Additional Requested:	\$	0.00	Total Source of Funds:	\$	0.00

**Explanation** (if required):

Funds are included in the approved FY 0809 Human Services Department budget; additional funds for will be redirected from funds that would have been paid to other contractors.

**Prior Board Action(s):**

The Board has approved agreements with child welfare providers on an annual basis for a number of years.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:**

Child Welfare Services will not have necessary services available to serve clients.

**Background:**

The Family, Youth and Children’s Services Division of the Human Services Department works with children and their families who are involved in the child welfare service system to alleviate the results of abuse or neglect. Social Workers must continuously seek specialized services to meet the needs of the children and their families, including parent education, counseling, family resource services, and psychological evaluations. The department contracts with a number of providers in our community to deliver these services.

Start Here Family Coaching is an intensive program that provides in-home support and education to families. The coaches help to find practical and realistic solutions to family challenges through modeling, goal setting, education, and relationship building. The program has been most successful at the time when children are returned to the home. Because of this success, the demand for this service has increased. The division is targeting families at the time of reunification thereby increasing the chances of children remaining at home and not returning to out-of-home placement. This directly ties into our Re-entry to Foster Care rate which is part of our child welfare outcomes.

Initially this contract service was offered to families at all stages of the child welfare process. But over the course of this year it has evolved to become an intensive service strategy for families that are reunifying. Outcomes for this service over the past year have been strongest for families in the reunification process, therefore this extension, as well as their contract next year, is designed to target those families. There is not an industry standard of pricing for this intensive in-home service; however, the procurement process scheduled for spring 2010 will help us identify a local standard and compare programs that are supported by best practice models. The \$45 rate is the same rates for comparable services with other providers for which the Department contracts. There have been no increases for at least two years.

Recommendation

Authorize the Director of Human Services, or her designee, to execute an amendment to increase funding for Start Here Family Coaching for fiscal year 08/09 (\$25,000.00) for a total of \$50,000 for the fiscal year.

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:**

Sample Amendment

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

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**Vote:**