

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only
 Meeting Date Held Until
 / / / /
 Agenda Item No: Agenda Item No:
 _____ _____

Department: Sonoma County Human Services Department

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:
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Board Date:
 10/27/2009

Deadline for Board Action:
 Department requests action on 10/27/2009 but is flexible if agenda cannot accommodate a presentation.

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Execution of agreement with Sunny Hills Services for Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP).

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Authorize the Human Services Department Director, or her designee, to sign and execute an agreement, and any amendments which do not significantly change program design or funding amounts, with Sunny Hills Services to fund the Sonoma Kinship Family Center, from 7/1/09 to 6/30/10, for \$176,916.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES:

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Estimated Cost	\$176,916	Contingencies	\$0
		(Fund Name:)	
Amount Budgeted	\$176,916	Unanticipated Revenue	\$0
		(Source:)	
Other Available Appropriations	\$0	Other Transfers	\$0
(Explain Below)		(Source:)	
Additional Requested	\$0	Additional Funds Requested	\$0

Explanation (if required): Funding for this program was included in the department's approved FY 2009-2010 budget.

Prior Board Action: 12/9/08: Approved resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment to the Human Services Department Final 2008-2009 Budget. Authorized the HSD Director to sign and execute KSSP agreement.
 10/16/07: Authorized the HSD Director to sign and execute KSSP agreement.
 2/6/07: Authorized the HSD Director to sign and execute KSSP agreement.
 12/19/06: Approved resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment to the Human Services Department's Final Budget in the amount of \$270,000.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: State KSSP funds must be used to support a designated Kinship Support Site. Non-approval would prevent the Human Services Department from utilizing these funds to implement the Kinship Support Services Program.

Background: Relatives are an important placement option for children who might otherwise spend years in foster or group homes. In July 2009, 32% of Sonoma County’s 482 foster children were living with a safe relative or extended family member. In most cases, becoming a caregiver to a child is unexpected. Supportive services targeted directly at relative caregivers are critical to placement success and in many instances prevent a child from entering the Child Welfare System altogether. When family members step in to care for children who might otherwise end up in foster care, it promotes children’s emotional well-being. Children who live with relatives are more likely to maintain connections with siblings (Pew Foundation, 2007) and experience placement stability (The University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children, 2007) than children placed with non-related foster families. It also makes financial sense. When children do not enter foster care because they have a safe family member caring for them, or when they can exit foster care more quickly, it saves the county in placement and case management costs.

In November 2006, on behalf of a planning group comprised of the County and community stakeholders, the Human Services Department (HSD) applied for and received funding from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to implement a kinship support program in Sonoma County. The original funding was used to lease and maintain a relative caregiver resource facility and to provide supportive services to relative caregivers. Ongoing KSSP funding, received via allocation from CDSS, is used to maintain the Sonoma Kinship Family Center and provide supportive services to kinship caregivers. Administered by Sunny Hills Services, the program utilizes paid staff and volunteers to carry out its work. Sunny Hills Services is the only provider of resource center based support services targeted to relative caregivers of children in Sonoma County.

Service Description

The Sonoma Kinship Family Center provides assessment and ongoing case management services; support groups; guardianship clinics; caregiver respite and recreation; Information and Referral (I&R) to health, mental health, financial and legal services; children’s recreation and afterschool tutoring; transportation and translation services. Emergency funding is also available for food, clothing, furniture or other items needed by relatives to provide for children in their care. These services address safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for dependent children, as identified in the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (SIP).

Requested Board Action

The HSD requests that the Board authorize the Human Services Department Director, or her designee, to sign and execute an agreement, and any amendments which do not significantly change program design or funding amounts, with Sunny Hills Services to fund the Sonoma Kinship Family Center, from 7/1/09 to 6/30/10, for \$176,916. This provides funding to support the maintenance and activities of the Sonoma Kinship Family Center. 10% of the KSSP allocation will be held back and used for administration by the Sonoma County Human Services Department.

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: Sample Agreement.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: