



Health & Human Services Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: September 10, 2024

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Francena Martinez PHONE: 559-624-8000

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement with Family Services of Tulare County

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an agreement with Family Services of Tulare County for the provision of supervised visitation services to families whose children have been placed in out-of-home care, in an amount not to exceed \$270,931, retroactive from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This agreement is retroactive due to a delay in the finalizing budget approvals, making it impracticable to take action before July 1, 2024.
2. Find that the Board had the authority to enter into the agreement as of July 1, 2024, and that it was in the County's best interest to enter into the agreement on that date.
3. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the agreement.

SUMMARY:

The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency's (HHSA) Child Welfare Services (CWS) Division is requesting to contract with Family Services of Tulare County to provide an intensive supervised visitation program for children in out-of-home care throughout Tulare County. Tulare County has contracted with Family Services of Tulare County to provide supervised visitation services since Fiscal Year 2009/2010. Family Services of Tulare County has demonstrated the capacity and operational ability to provide these services. This proposed agreement will provide services to an estimated one hundred and ninety (190) adults and three hundred (300) children.

Visitation is important as it allows the parent and the child to see each other and maintain their relationship. Frequent visitation during the first four (4) months is crucial to

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reunification. Studies show that the more a parent and child visit, the sooner they can be reunified. It is especially important when an infant is involved, as parents need to be allowed multiple visitation opportunities for bonding to occur. Additionally, supervised visits provide opportunities for trained staff to monitor all interactions between the child and parent and provide feedback to CWS. This feedback gives CWS objective information regarding the parent-child relationship and interaction.

A request for proposal (RFP) was solicited for supervised visitation services on March 21, 2024. Tulare County received two proposals, which were evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFP. Due to the limited number of proposals received, both vendors were selected to continue providing supervised visitation services. Family Services of Tulare County was selected as a vendor to provide this service.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The budgeted costs associated with this agreement are funded through 2011 realignment revenues and will be included in the Human Services 1001-142 budget, line 4020-7043, professional services, for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 in an amount not to exceed \$270,931. The estimated cost per client is \$552.92. There is no additional net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The Tulare County Strategic Business Plan in the Safety and Security Initiative and the Quality of Life Initiative encourages innovative provisions that support services for at-risk adults, youth, and children in state and federally-mandated programs. This agreement helps fulfill this obligation by providing supervised visitation services to preserve family ties and educate the parent(s) so that they may successfully reunify with their children.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Francena Martinez

Francena Martinez

Director of Human Services

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Agreement