



County of Santa Cruz

Human Services Department
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Ellen M. Timberlake, Director

Meeting Date: November 7, 2017
Date: October 19, 2017
To: The Board of Supervisors
From: Ellen M. Timberlake, Director
Subject: Approve Tri County CSEC Agreement

As you know, the Human Services Department (HSD) provides child welfare programs to families within Santa Cruz County. HSD Family and Children's Services (FCS) Division requests your approval of a regional agreement that will enhance services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) victims and survivors in the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito. Sufficient funds are included in HSD's Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget and approval of this agreement does not represent additional County cost.

Your Board approved a previous Tri County CSEC Agreement on June 28, 2016. Each county continues to receive funding from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to explore the prevalence of CSEC within the region, train child welfare staff in assessing for CSEC, develop outreach programs to educate the community, youth, and caregivers, and develop services for identified CSEC victims and survivors. Specifically, FCS has accomplished the following county specific results:

- Initiated a CSEC Prevalence Study anticipated to be complete by November 2017 in order to better understand the CSEC population in the Tri County region.
- Implemented emergency and ongoing Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings to discuss how to address and engage with identified CSEC youth. MDT members include staff from FCS, Juvenile Probation, Children's Behavioral Health, Public Health, County Office of Education, District Attorney's Office, Victim Witness, Monarch Services, and Encompass Community Services Transition Age Youth Program.
- Trained FCS and partner agency staff on engaging and working with CSEC.
- Funded a local community partner to implement an evidence-informed CSEC prevention curriculum at various middle schools, high schools, and group homes.
- Funded presentations to high school students by CSEC survivors.

FCS is in process of developing the following strategies that will be implemented this fiscal year:

- CSEC training for the public and local law enforcement.
- CSEC awareness campaign for the community to be delivered during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (January 2018).
- Engaged in regular meetings and discussions of The Coalition to End Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in order to coordinate resources and efforts addressing CSEC.

The attached agreement represents the continued partnership between Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties to serve CSEC victims and survivors within the tri county region. Monterey County will serve as the fiscal agent for the regional partners who will reimburse Monterey County for their respective share of costs for the prevalence study currently underway as a result of the previous agreement. In consideration of the time frames of this agreement, time constraints associated with the funding, and the need for each county to obtain Board approval, the current Agreement is being signed in counterpart.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the attached Tri County CSEC Program Agreement, effective upon final execution for 2017 through June 30, 2020, with the Monterey County Department of Social Services and the San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency, and authorize the Director of Human Services Department to sign.

Submitted by:


Ellen M. Timberlake, Director 10/19/2017

Recommended:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Tri County CSEC Agreement 2017-2020