



**County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
Agenda Item Submittal**

From: Human Services Department: Family and Children's Services Division
(831) 454-4130

Meeting Date: February 27, 2018

Recommended Action(s):

1. Approve an amendment to the fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 agreement with Parents Center Inc., in the amount of \$93,750, increasing to a new, not to exceed total of \$835,142, for child welfare support services.
2. Authorize the Human Services Department Director to sign the amendment.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) Family and Children's Services Division (FCS) contracts with Parents Center Inc. (Parents Center), to provide supervised visitation for parents who are working to reunify with their children as well as other child welfare support services. In the past, HSD funded a match to facilitate the Health Services Agency (HSA) to contract with Parents Center to leverage Medi-Cal funds to pay for some of the costs related to supervised visitation. In mid-year, the contractor informed both departments that Medi-Cal funding for this service was no longer viable. To ensure mandated supervised visitation for the remainder of the fiscal year, HSD requests the Board's approval of an amendment to HSD's current contract with Parents Center to re-direct funding that was previously provided to HSA, to the contractor.

Background

A key feature of FCS's child protection is ensuring a safe home for children who are removed from their family, while also working with their parents to reunify. During this time, the court orders supervised visits with parents and their children to provide on-going interactions in a safe environment.

For approximately 10 years, HSD has held a contract with Parents Center to provide this supervised visitation as well as other child welfare support services including counseling, hotlines and parent education. Through a separate agreement, HSA leveraged HSD funding to access Medi-Cal funds to support supervised visitation services. In a 2017 review process, Parents Center became aware that some of the services associated with supervised visitation cannot be billed to Medi-Cal. As a result, the Parents Center is left with a funding gap to service all referred children with court-ordered supervised visitation for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Analysis

To ensure supervised visitation needs are met, HSD seeks the Board's approval of a contract amendment with Parents Center, to add \$93,750 to their current contract for a new amount of \$835,142. Parents Center will now bill HSD for all aspects of supervised visitation as outlined in the attached amendment. Parents Center will maintain supervised visits services for referred children along with counseling, parent education and overnight crisis hotlines. The contract will continue to be measured by parents

reporting improved parenting skills and a reduction of problematic behaviors in their children.

Financial Impact

Approval of this amendment represents no new County cost. Sufficient funds approved in the FY 2017-18 HSD budget that were earlier dedicated to a match provided to HSA, will be used as well available child welfare funds.

Submitted by:

Ellen M. Timberlake, Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a ADM-29 amendment 18W3611
- b Contract Amendment 18W3611 Parents Center