



County of Santa Cruz
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

PH (831) 454-4130 · FAX (831) 454-4642
1000 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.hsd.co.santa-cruz.ca.us www.workforcescc.com

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

This is a Virtual Public Meeting

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, ISSUED MARCH 17, 2020, THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEETING. THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS MEETING, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL BE POSTED ON THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE AT [HTTPS://WWW.SANTACRUZHUMANSERVICES.ORG/HOME/HUMANSERVICESCOMMISSION](https://www.santacruzhumanservices.org/home/humanservicescommission)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE VIRTUAL MEETING PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT MICKI COCA BUSS, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, AT 831-454-7505 OR MICKI.COCABUSS@SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY AGENDIZED ITEM MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EMAILING MICKI.COCABUSS@SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US PRIOR TO CLOSE OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. with the first item and proceeds through the items in consecutive order unless otherwise noted.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| I. Roll Call | (2 min) |
| II. Agenda Review | (2 min) |
| III. Announcements | (5 min) |
| IV. Public Comment
Members of the public may address the Commission on items not on the agenda for a maximum of five minutes each. | (5 min) |
| V. Correspondence/Information Only | (3 min) |
| VI. Approval of Minutes (Action)
• May 19, 2021 | (2 min) |
| VII. Commissioners Introductions | (20min) |
| VIII. Employment & Benefit Services Division
Presenter: Kimberly Petersen, Employment & Benefit Services Division Director | (25 min) |

- IX. Agenda Survey Results and Discussion (10 min)**
- X. Director's Report (30 min)**
- XI. Veterans Liaison Report (10 min)**
- XII. Next Meeting and Agenda Items (5 min)**
September 15, 2021 – Location to be determined.
- XIII. Adjournment**

A complete agenda packet will be available for review at the Human Services Department webpage <https://www.santacruzhumanservices.org/Home/HumanServicesCommission>

MATERIALS AND CORRESPONDENCE IN PACKET

From the Board of Supervisors Agenda

Full agenda items on indicated dates available at <https://santacruzcountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Calendar.aspx>

BOS Date	Item	Page # in packet
05/18/2021 Item #35	<u>DOC-2021-435 : Ratify agreement with the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, Health Services Agency, Juvenile Probation, Office of Education, and San Andreas Regional Center to comply with Assembly Bill 2083 System of Care requirements, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	6
05/25/2021 Item #28	<u>DOC-2021-464 : Approve subsequent designation and recertification of the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board; approve the program year 2021-24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Regional and Local Plans; and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	8
05/25/2021 Item #29	<u>DOC-2021-465 : Defer the requested reports on three Human Services Department Housing for Health Division items for inclusion in a more comprehensive report back at the August 10, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	11
06/08/2021 Item #52	<u>DOC-2021-503 : Defer to August 24, 2021, a Board study session on the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy five-year plan, including findings of the 2021 State of the Workforce Report for Santa Cruz County, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	13
06/08/2021 Item #59	<u>DOC-2021-510 : Approve transfer of funds in the amount of \$361,260 for the site infrastructure improvement agreement with Encompass Community Services; approve a site infrastructure improvement agreement with Encompass Community Services in the amount of \$361,260; and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	15
06/08/2021 Item #60	<u>DOC-2021-511 : Approve the Santa Cruz County California - Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan 2020-2025 and authorize the Human Services Department to submit the plan to the California Department of Social Services, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	18
06/08/2021 Item #61	<u>DOC-2021-512 : Approve agreement with A Better Way, Inc., in the amount of \$375,000, for provision of Parent Partner Program services, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	21
06/08/2021 Item #62	<u>DOC-2021-513 : Approve amendment to agreement with Wayfinder Family Services for psychosocial assessment and adoption support service, increasing the contract amount by \$138,600 for a new total amount of \$238,600, as recommended by the Director of Human Services</u>	23

COMMISSION COMMITTEE AGENDAS AND MINUTES

- Child Care Planning Council <http://www.childcareplanning.org/>
- IHSS Advisory Commission
<http://www.santacruzhumanservices.org/AdultLongTermCare/InHomeSupportiveServices/AdvisoryCommission.aspx>
- Santa Cruz County Women's Commission <http://www.sccwc.org/Home/Meetings.aspx>
- Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission <http://www.sccseniors.org/Home/Meetings.aspx>
- Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities <http://scccod.net/>
- Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission <http://scclatinoaffairs.org>

OTHER MATERIALS

- Meeting Minutes – May 2021 (Page 5 in packet)
- HSD Budget Presentation:
<http://santacruzcountyca.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1873&Format=Agenda>
The HSD CORE budget presentation begins at the 1:26:45 mark, and the HSD Budget presentation begins at the 1:46:13 mark.



County of Santa Cruz

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

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FAX (831) 454-4642

1000 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

www.santacruzhumanservices.org www.workforcescc.com

Draft

Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 19, 2021

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners Present: Emily Hanson (1st District); Lisa Smith (1st District); Danny Keith (2nd District); Monica Martinez (3rd District); Betsy Clark (3rd District); Stoney Brook (4th District); Felipe Hernandez (4th District); Jennifer Anderson-Ochoa (5th District); Denise Hitzman (5th District).

Commissioners Excused: Martina Shayn O’Sullivan (2nd District)

Commissioners Unexcused: None

Commission Seats Vacant: None

Staff Present: Randy Morris, Human Services Department Director; Micki Coca Buss, Senior Analyst Human Services Department; and Jackie West, Executive Secretary Human Services Department; George Malachoski, Business Analytics Manager Human Services Department; Sven Stafford, Principal Analyst County Administrative Office; Alicia Morales Adult and Long-Term Care Division Direction Human Services Department.

Guests: None

1. Approval of Minutes (Action): The Commission approved the September 16, 2020 meeting minutes. (Clark/Hernandez)

AYES: Hanson, Smith, Keith, Martinez, Brook, Anderson-Ochoa, Hitzman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: O’Sullivan

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Family and Children's Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Ratify System of Care MOU re AB2083 State mandate

Meeting Date: May 18, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

Ratify agreement with the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, Health Services Agency, Juvenile Probation, Office of Education, and San Andreas Regional Center to comply with Assembly Bill 2083 System of Care requirements, as recommended by the Director of Human Services

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) is requesting ratification of an agreement with the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency (HSA), Juvenile Probation (Probation), Office of Education, and San Andreas Regional Center to comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 2083 System of Care requirements.

Background

AB 2083 (Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018) requires each county to develop and implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) setting forth roles and responsibilities of agencies and other entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma. The purpose of the MOU is to ensure that children and youth in foster care receive coordinated, timely, and trauma-informed services.

Analysis

The agreement between HSD, HSA, Probation, Office of Education, and San Andreas Regional Center to comply with AB 2083 System of Care outlines how the system partners will work together as an administrative team, as defined in the MOU, with collaborative authority over the interrelated child welfare, juvenile justice, education, developmental, and mental health children's services. The agreement was reviewed and approved by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), County of Santa Cruz County Counsel, and County of Santa Cruz Risk Management. Due to the collaborative nature of the MOU and the timeline to provide this MOU to CDSS, the MOU has been reviewed and signed by all System Partners.

Financial Impact

Ratification of this memorandum of understanding does not result in an additional General Fund contribution. As part of the MOU, the Interagency Agreement – Transportation Plan to Ensure School Stability for Student in Foster Care will be funded

through a combination of Local Education Agency funding and State child welfare funding.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1.D (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Behavioral Health) - The MOU allows HSD to meet State requirements related to a coordinated, timely, trauma-informed system of care for children and youth in foster care.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

a Santa Cruz County System of Care Memorandum of Understanding, Agreement No. MOU-24-130

cc:

Faris Sabbah
Fernando Giraldo
Mimi Hall
Javier Zaldivar



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Employment and Benefit Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Approve WIOA Recertification, Local & Regional Plans

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

1. Approve the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board's local area subsequent designation and local board recertification application for program years 2021-2023 and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the approved recertification application;
2. Approve the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board's (WDB) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan for program years 2021-2024, permitting the Santa Cruz County WDB to make future, state required non-substantive edits, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the approved WIOA Local Plan;
3. Approve the North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit's WIOA Regional Plan for program years 2021-2024, and;
4. Direct the Human Services Department Director to submit the approved Santa Cruz County WDB's WIOA Local Plan to the California Workforce Development Board in tandem with the submission of the approved North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit's WIOA Regional Plan, both for program years 2021-2024.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) requests Board of Supervisors (Board) approval of an application for Workforce Development Board (WDB) recertification and subsequent designation for program years 2021-2023. HSD is also requesting Board approval of the WDB's local plan and the North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit's regional plan, both for program years 2021-2024.

Background

Subsequent Designation And Local Board Recertification

The Santa Cruz County WDB, a division of HSD, administers the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for the County of Santa Cruz, under the authority granted by the federal government to the California Workforce Development Board (State Board). Federal WIOA regulations require the State Board to designate Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) and certify local WDBs in order to receive and administer WIOA funding for workforce development activities that assist local job seekers. The

Santa Cruz County WDB was initially designated as an LWDA in 2015, with subsequent 2-year designations and recertification that will end on June 30, 2021.

To continue providing WIOA funded services, the Santa Cruz County WDB is applying for a program year (PY) 2021-2023 LWDA subsequent designation and local WDB recertification. As required by this process, the attached application was approved by the Santa Cruz County WDB on April 1, 2021, and HSD now seeks the Board of Supervisors (Board) approval to submit it to the State Board for final approval.

Local and Regional Plan Approval

Federal WIOA regulations also require California to identify planning regions throughout the state that align regional workforce development activities and resources through regional planning, for broader coordination of local services to job seekers and employers. The Santa Cruz County WDB is part of the North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit, along with the Monterey and San Benito County LWDA's.

Additionally, a biennial update of previously approved regional and local WIOA plans is required to ensure local and regional plans remain current, account for changes in the labor market and economic conditions, and continue to align with California's state-wide plan. WIOA regional plans represent the big picture of a region's economy and workforce environment, with a focus on collaborative strategies across multiple local areas. WIOA local plans are a subset of the regional plan, and articulate how individuals access local and regional services, how services are coordinated, and how resources are integrated within a person-centered workforce development service model.

The North Central Coast's WIOA regional plan embodies an integrated vision on regional strategies to meet the State Board's formal guidance on planning, while also considering the short- and long-term impacts of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The regional plan's themes and objectives aim to assist in the steady recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while fostering relationships with partners and working towards more equitable opportunities for workers in the region.

The Santa Cruz County WDB's WIOA local plan is a four-year action plan to develop, align and integrate service delivery strategies and resources that are a subset of the regional plan. The local plan takes the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the CZU Lightning Complex Fire of August of 2020 into consideration when planning for the recovery needs of our county's job seekers, businesses and collaborative partners. As such, the local plan represents what is known at this time, but may be further developed as the pandemic and local conditions evolve in 2021 and beyond. Both the WIOA regional and local plans are attached.

Analysis

Subsequent Designation And Local Board Recertification

HSD recommends the Board approve the subsequent designation and local WDB recertification application for PY 2021-2023 and authorize the Chair to sign the application. Subsequent designation and recertification are critical components of our continued eligibility to receive WIOA funding and provide workforce development services to job seekers, youth and businesses in our community. To meet requirements for both the subsequent designation and recertification, the WDB must have met or

exceeded performance criteria and sustained fiscal integrity during the prior period. Additionally, for subsequent designation, the local WDB must have engaged in the regional planning process. The Santa Cruz County WDB has met all these criteria. Once attained, subsequent designation and recertification of the WDB will be effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Local and Regional Plan Approval

Additionally, HSD recommends the Board approve the WIOA local plan, permitting the Santa Cruz County WDB to make future, state required non-substantive edits, for PY 2021-2024. HSD also seeks the Board's approval of the North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit's WIOA regional plan, similarly for PY 2021-2024. Both plans were prepared in accordance with WIOA requirements and planning guidance provided by the State Board, including the mandated public notice and public comment and review period. The Santa Cruz County WDB governing board approved both plans at its April 1, 2021 meeting. Approval of the County Board of Supervisors is also required prior to submitting the plans to the State by the May 31, 2021 due date. The Monterey County WDB is the lead on the Regional Plan and will submit it on behalf of all three regional unit counties.

Financial Impact

No impact.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

5.A (Dynamic Economy: Regional Workforce) - The recertification of the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board and approval of the North Central Coast Regional Planning Unit's regional plan allows HSD to continue planning and receiving funds to improve industry sector engagement, drive workforce development outcomes across multiple jurisdictions, and expand on-ramps to career pathways for individuals who experience barriers to employment, toward supporting the regional economy.

5.C (Dynamic Economy: Local Businesses) - The recertification of the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board and approval of the local plan allows HSD to provide an action plan for operationalizing the roadmap laid out in the regional plan, improving how individuals access services and how the WDB will coordinate with local business partners to ensure person-centered service-delivery.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Application - WDB Subsequent Designation & Recertification
- b Santa Cruz County WDB Local Plan
- c North Central Coast - Regional Plan



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

From: Human Services Department: Administration Services Division
(831) 454-4130

Subject: Deferral of 2 H4H MC items

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

Defer the Human Services Department Housing for Health Division reports on family homelessness, the Homeward Bound program, and the Smart Path coordinated entry system to the August 10, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Executive Summary

On March 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Human Services Department (HSD) Housing for Health Division to present updates to the Board on a variety of activities related to addressing homelessness within the County. The Board directed HSD to provide additional reports on family homelessness, the Homeward Bound program, and the Smart Path coordinated entry system. Rather than reporting on these items individually, the Housing for Health Division recommends deferring these items to be included in the scheduled Housing for Health Division comprehensive update to the Board on August 10, 2021.

Background

On March 9, 2021, the Board approved the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz strategic framework for addressing homelessness within the County. Prior to the formal adoption of this framework, the Board requested updates on specific programs related to addressing homelessness on separate board dates. The Board requested an update on efforts to ensure no families with children under 18 years old go without shelter for more than 90 days for the May 25, 2021 board meeting. A separate update on the Homeward Bound program was scheduled by HSD for a June 2021 board meeting. An update on the Smart path coordinated entry system was requested for an August 2021 board meeting. A more comprehensive update on the status of the implementation of the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz three-year strategic framework was requested for August 10, 2021.

Analysis

The Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz strategic framework calls for a more coordinated and systematic approach to addressing homelessness within the County. The Housing for Health Division plans on providing a comprehensive framework implementation update to the Board at its August 10, 2021 meeting. Rather than providing updates on specific programs on separate dates, the Housing for Health Division recommends the inclusion of updates on these programs at the August 10, 2021 Board meeting. The inclusion of these updates within a comprehensive framework will highlight the interconnectedness between different programs and the policy and program

implementation tradeoffs and potential outcomes associated with different strategic decisions and investments.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with deferring these Housing for Health Division report backs.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

2.D. Attainable Housing: Homelessness - Providing a comprehensive report to the Board on August 10 will strengthen the Board's understanding of the inter-connectedness between strategies and implementation results associated with different approaches to address homelessness.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer



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

From: Human Services Department: Employment and Benefit Services
Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: WDB 2020 CEDS Study Session - Deferral

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

Defer to August 24, 2021, a Board study session on the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five-year plan, including findings of the 2021 State of the Workforce Report for Santa Cruz County.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD), at the recommendation of the County Administrative Office (CAO), requests a deferral of the Board study session on the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five-year plan to August 24, 2021.

Background

On May 19, 2020, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the 2020 CEDS. The Board directed HSD to hold a study session presenting the findings related to the CEDS. The Board also requested that the presentation include an update on economic development impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 15, 2020, the Board approved deferral of this presentation to prioritize matters related to the CZU Lightning Complex Fires. On December 8, 2020, the Board approved a second deferral for HSD to incorporate additional information regarding the State of the Workforce Report, which provides more current information on the local workforce and economy as impacted by COVID-19. The revised CEDS presentation and study session was rescheduled for June 8, 2021.

Analysis

Due to the full agenda for the June 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, the CAO requested HSD defer the 2020 CEDS five-year plan Board study session to August 24, 2021. This would allow other priority items to be considered by the Board at the June 8th meeting.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the deferral of this CEDS presentation and study session.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

5.A (Dynamic Economy: Regional Workforce) - HSD and the Santa Cruz County WDB advances economic opportunity and a vibrant and inclusive local economy by setting a County-wide, five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Employment and Benefit Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Approve Agreement with Encompass for Phase 2 Construction of Youth Resource Center

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

- 1) Approve the transfer of funds from the County Administrative Office budget into the Human Services Department budget in the amount of \$361,260 for the site infrastructure improvement agreement with Encompass Community Services; and
- 2) Approve a site infrastructure improvement agreement with Encompass Community Services, in the amount of \$361,260, and authorize the Human Services Department Director to execute the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) seeks the Board's approval of a contract with Encompass Community Services (Encompass) for necessary site infrastructure improvements that will enable Encompass to open and operate their Youth Resource Center (Resource Center) for local youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Background

In March 2019, pursuant to a request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Continuum of Care (CoC), known locally as the Homeless Action Partnership (HAP), Encompass was selected to establish and operate a Youth Resource Center (Resource Center) at a property to be leased in Santa Cruz County. Since that time, Encompass identified and leased a site within the City of Santa Cruz for this purpose. The City has approved of the project plan.

Once the Resource Center is operational, youth and young adults (YYA) may access showers, laundry facilities, food, and support for education and employment activities. YYA will be assessed for additional services, be connected to mainstream resources, and receive housing navigation and case management support. Operations will be funded by Encompass Community Services from their HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) and CDSS Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grants. Completion of this project represents a significant milestone in the completion of a cohort of projects initiated in 2018 through the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP).

This agreement provides the funding necessary for Encompass to make site infrastructure improvements at their leased site in order to open and operate the Resource Center. HSD entered into an initial phase one purchase order agreement with Encompass in February of 2021 to fund the architectural assessment, designs and permitting phase of the agreed upon site infrastructure improvements. A second phase will include physical infrastructure improvements, as well as furniture and equipment purchases and installation. Additional funding is required to complete this second phase and to open the Resource Center in fall of 2021.

Analysis

HSD recommends the Board approve the transfer of funds from the County Administrative Office (CAO) budget into the HSD budget, in the amount of \$361,260, for the site infrastructure improvement with Encompass Community Services as detailed in the attached Request for Transfer or Revision of Budget Appropriations and/or Transfer of Funds (AUD 74). This transfer is a component of the transition and integration of the Homeless Services Coordination Office (HSCO) from the CAO into the HSD Housing for Health division.

HSD also seeks the Board's approval of an agreement with Encompass in the amount of \$361,260, from May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, to conduct the final "phase two" Resource Center site infrastructure improvements. This site infrastructure improvement agreement will allow Encompass to complete the necessary infrastructure improvements needed to open the Resource Center and begin providing services and support to youth and young adults experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

Financial Impact

Approval of the agreement will not result in the need for additional General Fund contribution.

The contract with Encompass Community Services is funded through the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) allocation, for the purpose of completing site infrastructure improvements to open a Youth Resource Center. The funds for this agreement were originally included in the County Administrative Office's FY 2020-21 Approved Budget, and the attached AUD74 transfers existing HHAP funds from CAO Budget Index/GL Key: 185000/62381 to be included in the Human Services Department's FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget.

Encompass Community Services No. 21W4104, Index/GL Key: 391200/62381

Strategic Plan Element(s)

2.D (Attainable Housing: Homelessness) - The site infrastructure improvements HSD will fund for Encompass's future Youth Resource Center will enable Encompass to meet basic needs and provide housing-focused services to assist youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Contract 21W4104 Encompass Community Services, YRC Site Improvement Project Phase 2
- b AUD74 HSD Authorization to Transfer Funds
- c ADM-29 21W4104 Encompass Community Services



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Family and Children's Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Approve the Santa Cruz County California - Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Recommended Actions

Approve the Santa Cruz County California - Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan 2020-2025 and authorize the Human Services Department to submit the plan to the California Department of Social Services, as recommended by the Director of Human Services

Executive Summary

The Family and Children's Services (FCS) division of the Human Services Department (HSD), together with County Juvenile Probation, is required by State law to complete a child and family services County Self-Assessment (CSA) and System Improvement Plan (SIP) every five years. HSD seeks the Board's authorization to submit the Santa Cruz County California - Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan for 2020-2025 to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Background

In order to meet federal requirements, CDSS requires each county to produce two documents every five years: a County Self-Assessment (CSA) and a System Improvement Plan (SIP). The County of Santa Cruz completed submission of the 2020 CSA to CDSS, which this Board approved in January 2020, and the County is now required to follow up with the submission of the SIP.

The SIP was developed from the 2020 CSA findings with input from the SIP Steering Committee. Active since 2007, the SIP Steering Committee provides oversight for the SIP development process. Currently chaired by Supervisor Bruce McPherson, the SIP Steering Committee has twenty-plus members from partner agencies, community-based organizations, and service providers with invaluable expertise in child welfare and juvenile probation services.

Analysis

During the SIP development process, SIP Steering Committee highlighted five priority areas that were considered central to improving permanency outcomes:

- Strengthen Family, Youth & Community Engagement

- Improve Teaming & Collaboration
- Build Placement Capacity to Meet Demand
- Promote Timely Permanency
- Bolster Prevention Efforts

Based on these priorities, the following SIP strategies were developed:

SANTA CRUZ SIP STRATEGIES 2020 - 2025	
HSD FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES	COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION
1. Improve Father Engagement	1. Improve Support for Probation Parents
2. Enhance Services to Birth Parents	2. Implement ICPM Principles, Values & Behaviors
3. Strengthen Implementation of Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM)	
4. Increase Placement Capacity	
5. Expand Prevention Services	

These core approaches form the framework of the SIP, giving focus and a pathway for the next five years of system improvement in County of Santa Cruz child welfare and juvenile probation services. Taken together, they reflect an interconnected array of strategies to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families from early intervention and prevention through aftercare.

Financial Impact

Approval of the System Improvement Plan will not result in any additional General Fund contribution.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1.D (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Behavioral Health) - The SIP assists HSD with understanding the community impact of child abuse and neglect and with identifying strategies for its prevention, intervention, and education.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

a Santa Cruz County California - Child and Family Services Review System
Improvement Plan 2020-2025



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department: Family and Children's Services Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Approve Agreement with A Better Way Inc. for Parent Partner Program (per RFP)

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

Approve agreement with A Better Way Inc., in the amount of \$375,000, for provision of Parent Partner Program services; and authorize the Director of Human Services to execute the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department Family and Children's Services is piloting a Parent Partner Program, via a contract with A Better Way, Inc., to increase parent engagement and participation in case plan activities and improve outcomes for parents who are involved with the Human Services Department (HSD) Family and Children's Services (FCS) division.

Background

The Human Services Department Family and Children's Services is piloting a Parent Partner Program, to be operated by a contracted vendor, to have parents who successfully navigated the juvenile court dependency process (parent partners) offer mentoring and support and elevate the parent voice in all aspects of FCS. This will include having the parent partners participate in decision making workgroups, training FCS staff on the importance of parent and family voice, and offering support to birth parents as they navigate the child welfare system and work to eliminate the harm and risk factors that brought their children to the attention of FCS.

With the Board's approval, HSD released FY 2020-21 Parent Partner Program request for qualifications (RFQ) No. 2021HSD07 to procure a vendor to operate the pilot program. HSD received three (3) responses to the RFQ and the ratings panel selected A Better Way, Inc. as the vendor to operate the pilot program.

Analysis

HSD is requesting the Board approve a contract with A Better Way, Inc. A Better Way, Inc. was selected by the ratings panel due to being a trauma-informed organization, their breadth of experience, and diversity in services. A Better Way, Inc. provides similar services in other California counties with demonstrated success in meeting performance metrics. In particular, they are able to provide culturally relevant services through bilingual and bicultural staff.

Performance for this contract will be measured by the percentage of referred participants who have improved self-assessment scores, indicating reunification and abuse rates of families who receive services are better off than those who do not; and by timely tracking and reporting of participant documentation. Funding for the agreement is contingent upon Board approval of HSD's fiscal year 2021-22 budget proposal.

Financial Impact

Approval of the agreement will not result in the need for additional General Fund contribution. The contract with A Better Way, Inc. is funded through the California Department of Social Services for purpose of providing Parent Partner Program services and is included in the FY2021-22 Proposed Budget.

A Better Way Inc.
 Contract No. 21W4103
 GL/JL: 392100/14600068

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1B. (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support) The Parent Partner Program provides parents with services, education and peer support required to eliminate the harm and risk factors that brought their children to the attention of FCS.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Contract No. 22W4103 A Better Way Inc.
- b ADM-29 22W4103 A Better Way Inc.



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

From: Human Services Department: Family and Children's Services
Division

(831) 454-4130

Subject: Approve Agreement with Wayfinder Family Services for
PSA/PAARP

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Recommended Action(s):

Approve an amendment to an agreement with Wayfinder Family Services, increasing the total by \$138,600, for an amended total of \$238,600 to provide psychosocial assessment and adoption support services and authorize the Director of Human Services to execute the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Human Services Department (HSD) requests approval of an amendment to an agreement with Wayfinder Family Services (Wayfinder) for psychosocial assessment and adoption support services. The amendment reflects the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) mandate for counties to manage the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP), which was formerly administered by the State.

Background

Wayfinder Family Services provides contracted psychosocial assessment services as a key component of the Family and Children's Services (FCS) Resource Family approval process, and pre- and post-adoption services for resource families approved for adoption of a child in the child welfare system. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) previously compensated adoption agencies for completed adoptions through the PAARP. With the passage of AB 1301 (Chapter 827, Statutes of 2019), responsibility for collecting and processing PAARP claims shifted from CDSS to county child welfare agencies. This shift includes compensating licensed private adoption agencies for the costs associated with supporting families through the process of adopting children and non-minor dependents (NMDs) eligible for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits.

Analysis

The amendment is part of HSD's response to operationalize the transition of PAARP responsibilities from the State to the County. The amendment will allow HSD to compensate Wayfinder Family Services for eligible AAP benefits related to supporting families through the process of adopting children and NMDs, which includes preparing the family for adoptions, conducting post adoptive placement agreement visits, assisting the family finalization of the adoption, and providing any other related adoption activities.

Financial Impact

Approval of the contract will not result in additional General Fund contribution. The agreement with Wayfinder Family Services 21W3998 is budgeted through the California Department of Social Services. Contract No. 21W3998, Index/GL Key: 392100-62885

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1.B (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support) Adoption support services prepare families for adoption through home visits, assistance in gathering the required documents, and connecting to services, which facilitates the adoption process to completion.

Submitted by:

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a Contract No. 21W3998 Wayfinder Family Services, First Amendment
- b ADM29 21w3998 A01 Wayfinder Family Services

cc:

Wayfinder Family Services