



# COUNTY OF VENTURA HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Barry L. Zimmerman  
Director

April 9, 2019

Melissa Livingston  
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Jennie Pittman  
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Administrative Services

Marissa Mach  
Deputy Director  
Adult & Family Services

Judy Webber  
Deputy Director  
Children & Family Services

Curtis Updike  
Deputy Director  
Community Services  
Department

**Subject:** Approval of, and Authorization for the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to Sign, a Contract Amendment with Kids & Families Together for the Relationship Assessment Program and Therapeutic Family Visitation Center to Increase Funding from \$300,000 to an Amount Not to Exceed \$335,000, Effective April 1, 2019.

**Recommendation:**

Approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign, an amendment to the contract with Kids & Families Together to increase funding by \$35,000 to a revised total not to exceed \$335,000, effective April 1, 2019.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Realignment (91 & 2011)
Funding Match Required:	50% County General Fund
Impact on other Departments:	None

**Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:**

	<u>FY 2018-19</u>	<u>FY 2019-20</u>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Direct:	\$17,500	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Costs:</b>		
Direct	\$35,000	\$0
Indirect Costs	Minimal	Minimal
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Net County Cost Incl. Indirect</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>

The amount indicated above for FY18-19 is the total cost increase for the remainder of this fiscal year. It is anticipated that this is a one-time increase. FY19-20 amounts will be included in HSA's contract renewal approvals for next fiscal year. There are sufficient

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Appropriations and County cost savings in the Agency's adjusted budget to cover the costs increase associated with this Board action.

<b>FY 2018-19 Budget for HSA Children and Family Services - BU 3413 (AP08)</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$53,091,494	\$53,949,576	\$55,073,004	(1,123,428)
Revenue	\$34,443,000	\$34,443,000	\$37,643,000	3,200,000
Net Cost	\$18,648,494	\$19,506,576	\$17,430,004	2,076,572

**Discussion:**

The Human Services Agency requests approval to amend an existing contract with Kids & Families Together to increase the contract amount for FY 2018-19. This year's contract was originally approved by your Board as part of our annual contract renewal requests on June 12, 2018. The contract has two components:

- 1) Relationship Assessment Program: This component provides 57 families with family maintenance support services for family preservation. Pre-Assessment services utilize empirically-based assessment measures to assess the quality and nature of the caregiver-child relationship. Therapy Services provide therapeutic interventions to help families implement safety and risk-reduction strategies during family preservation. When out of home care is needed, this program supports the stabilization of family placements by resolving problems that may disrupt the family. Therapists provide services in the family home or in the office. Post-Assessment services are administered utilizing empirically-based assessment measures and assess the quality and nature of the caregiver-child relationship after services have been provided.
- 2) Therapeutic Family Visitation Center: This component provides 100 families (35 at any one time) with approximately 18 sessions of intensive family-driven in-office and in-home therapeutic support services for family reunification purposes. Treatment focuses on repairing and restoring the parent-child relationship which is needed for safe parenting and better understanding of the child's needs. At the completion of the program, the contractor issues a complete post-assessment discharge treatment outcome update and transition services.

The following is a summary of the contract:

Contractor: Kids & Families Together

Contract Title: Relationship Assessment Program & Therapeutic Family Visitation Center

Contract Overview: As described above, this contract serves families referred by CFS to increase parenting and caregiver skills through proven interventions, thereby enabling family preservation and family reunification for at-risk families.

Original Contract Amount: \$300,000

Contract Term: July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019

Modified Contract Components: Increase contract amount by \$35,000 to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$335,000.

Contractor Performance: The contractor is currently meeting contract outcomes. Sixty-seven families have been served this fiscal year to-date. Eighteen families have completed the program (nine in Relationship Assessment Program and nine in Therapeutic Family Visitation Center). Ninety-five percent of families completed their assessments, and 89% of families completing the program showed improved parenting skills as measured by several parenting and family health assessment tools (Parenting Stress Index, Family Development Matrix, Healthy Family Parenting Inventory, etc.). One hundred percent of caregivers completed a satisfaction survey after graduation from the program and reported that they learned improved parenting techniques as a result. The program offers important value for families working towards family preservation and reunification. It provides caregivers with increased skills that promote child safety, well-being, improved parent-child interactions and family permanency. The contract is on track to meet objectives and there were no findings.

The budget for this contract was decreased from \$424,114 in FY17-18 to \$300,000 in FY18-19 because components of these services have been determined to be eligible for federal funding under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) through Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH). EPSDT is funded through Medi-Cal and provides for Specialty Mental Health Services to children under 21 years of age. Steps have been taken to maximize the portion of EPSDT eligible activities going forward. However, additional time was required to secure formal approval for the use of EPSDT funding, so the substantive use of EPSDT funding will not be fully realized until FY19-20. As a result of EPSDT funding being lower than expected for this fiscal year, additional costs will occur under this HSA agreement. This modification request will accomplish those needed increases in the HSA agreement.

We request that your Board approve this amendment and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the amendment to the contract.

This request is consistent with County Strategic Plan Focus Area #4: Community Well-Being, Strategic Goal 5: "Ensure that all children at risk receive the best treatment services to achieve the greatest success."

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301 or Judy Webber, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, at 805-477-5311.



BARRY L. ZIMMERMAN  
Director

Attachments: Exhibit 1: Kids & Families Together Contract Amendment #1