

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 6/19/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 781-1831	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a new service contract (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$65,340 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK), for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates in the amount of \$65,340 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) PSSF/Fed	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$65,340	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$65,340	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001156		(14) W-9 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date <u> N/A </u>	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 781-1831

DATE: 6/19/2012

SUBJECT: Request to approve a new service contract (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$65,340 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a new service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK), for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates in the amount of \$65,340 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

DISCUSSION

In a collaborative effort among the Departments of Social Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health and Probation, the SAFE System of Care (SOC) was established in 1992 as an initiative of the Children's Services Network (CSN). The mission of the SAFE SOC is working together in partnership with children and families to enhance independence, safety, and health at home, in school and in the community. Currently the SAFE SOC is operating in three (3) school districts: Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD), Atascadero Unified School District (AUSD) and Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD). Each operation is unique, but all provide services consistent with the mission and values of SAFE. This contract is for services in the Northern Region of San Luis Obispo County.

The SAFE SOC builds upon the concept of a three-tiered multi-agency integrated service delivery model that has been developed in the majority of counties throughout California. Services focus on incorporating community prevention activities, intervention and referral services, and intensive treatment services. The SAFE Community-Based Team (CBT) and the Intensive Services Team (IST) interact with local community-based organizations and services to support local prevention efforts at the grassroots level. The Community-Based Team (CBT) is made up of *prevention* and *intervention* service providers such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and CalFresh (i.e., food assistance) workers, employment specialists, family counselors, parent educators and family advocates. If a child or family needs to be linked to a community resource, transportation, translation, assessment, or help with life management skills a referral is made to the CBT. The team also provides extensive Information and Referral services, which often divert a family from any further involvement with "the system" of human services agencies.

The Intensive Services Team (IST) is made up of social workers, Drug & Alcohol and Mental Health therapists, Probation officers and other treatment-level practitioners. If a child or family has immediate and/or severe problems or is involved with two or more service agencies a referral is made to the IST. The IST provides services to support the family and avoid out of home placement for children and youth (whether foster care, group home placement, hospitalization for mental illness or incarceration at the Juvenile Services Center).

The Management Support Team (MST), consisting of mid-level managers from the participating agencies, has been established to remove barriers and facilitate the functioning of SAFE SOC staff teams by meeting monthly. The Committee developed the concept of a Site Coordinator which is utilized in Atascadero to assist in operation of the SAFE SOC and the daily supervision of on-site staff. In addition, they have a Center for Assessment and Referrals in Education Services (CARES) Coordinator in Paso Robles that works with all of the school districts, agencies and community-based organizations in the region to provide SAFE SOC education and outreach and to insure the smooth operation of SAFE SOC referrals and services, functions that benefit all of the SAFE SOC partners and communities.

There are many benefits to families served by the SAFE SOC. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Services based in their community and linked to the schools make access much easier and “user friendly” for families, who can receive multiple services and levels of service in one location.
- Services that are multi-disciplinary and case managed mean that family service plans are consolidated and simplified. Family members don’t have to cover the same ground with different providers.
- There is less travel for both families and agency staff, which is a direct benefit to the individuals involved, the community and the environment through reductions in traffic, fuel emissions and consumption, and increases in saved time and efficiency.
- Any agency or group that serves families and youth is aware of the program and makes referrals to the local SAFE SOC site in their area.

The LINK is a non-profit organization that has been providing services in the North County since 1998 and covers a geographic area that includes Shandon, Parkfield, Creston, Santa Margarita, San Miguel as well as Atascadero and Paso Robles. Currently the LINK is a full service Family Resource Center and leading provider of SAFE SOC Family Advocates in the North County. They collaborate with the Department of Social Services, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Inc. (CAPSLO), AUSD, PRJUSD, North County Connection, Kinship Center, Workforce Investment Act (ACT), and several other public and private agencies serving at-risk children and youth. Services provided focus on supporting youth and families in need. The LINK’s Family Advocacy Program has become the foundation for the Organization’s success.

Through family advocates, the LINK has direct contact with families and works hard to build trust and identify needs. When families are in need or in crisis, family advocates are there to support their

needs in school, throughout the social services network, and across social, cultural and economic boundaries. Annually, Family Advocates make contact with hundreds of families and provide services that include in-home support, case management, and resources to help families become strong and stable. Schools also rely on Family Advocates to identify concerns and provide early intervention support to keep children healthy, safe, and in school. Since 2009, Family Advocates in the North County have participated in middle school Student Assistance Teams through the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention program. The LINK recognizes that community is family, and a thriving community cannot develop without thriving families contributing to its success. For more information about The LINK services visit their website at www.slolink.org.

The performance outcomes of this contract align with the County System Improvement Plan (SIP) strategies and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) goals of providing services that promote healthy marriages and strengthen parenting skills to reduce child abuse and neglect. The performance outcomes for FY 2012-2013 fall under four components: 1) Family Preservation, 2) Family Support Services, 3) Adoption Promotion and Support Services, and 4) Time-Limited Family Reunification Services. Family Preservation refers to services that help families at risk or in crisis by providing assistance that aid in reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship. Specifically, services may be designed to improve parenting skills, assist with family budgeting, coping with stress, and understanding age appropriate health and nutritional needs of children. Family Support Services refers to the use of community-based services to promote the safety and well-being of families and children.

The third component, Adoption Promotion and Support Services, is intended to provide services and activities designed to ensure permanency for children through family reunification, adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement. Activities may include pre- and post-adoption services, or activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families. The final component is the Time-Limited Family Reunification Services which include services for a child that is removed from their home and placed in a foster family home or institution and a reunification plan is in place to return the child to his/her family or origin within a 15-month period. Services and activities may include counseling, substance abuse treatment, assistance with addressing domestic violence, therapeutic services and/or transportation to or from plan activities.

Approval of this contract will allow The LINK to employ Family Advocates that work directly with referred children and families in the North County region. Referrals come from teachers, school nurses, principals, counselors, and school staff who have direct contact with children and families. Families can also self refer. The Family Advocates provide services that help strengthen each family based on their unique needs. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

This contract was developed in partnership with CSN, OCAP and The LINK. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This contract is 100% funded with Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) federal dollars. PSSF funding is allocated to the county annually by the OCAP based on a 3-year plan. The LINK was selected through the 2011 RFP process to receive funding for a three (3) year period starting in FY 2011-2012.

In FY 2011-2012 The LINK received \$34,000 as awarded by a previous RFP. The County funded the contract using County approved purchasing procedures for service contracts under \$50,000. Based on funds available through the RFP in FY 2012-2013 the total contract amount for The LINK is \$65,340. The contract is included in the Department of Social Services adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and will require no General Fund contribution.

Agency	Actual FY 11-12	Budget FY 12-13	Notes	Sharing Ratios			
				Fed	State	Co	Other
The LINK	\$ 34,000	\$ 65,340	SAFE (PSSF funds)	100%	0%	0%	

RESULTS

The Central Coast LINK (The LINK) Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Advocacy Services

The SAFE contract is funded with Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funds. Based on the 2011 RFP, performance outcomes align with the County System Improvement Plan (SIP) outcomes.

SAFE is a community-based, school-linked program designed to bring services to children and families on three (3) levels: prevention, community-based and intensive. The goal is to focus on family strengths and work with families to keep children safe, healthy, at home, in school, and out of trouble.

Fiscal Year 12-13

The LINK will provide fifty (50) families with case management, support and coordination of services who are either at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect. From the 50 families served, 75% will demonstrate improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments.

The LINK will provide one-on-one support and case management to fifteen (15) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically; 75% of families served and cased managed by FDM will show improvement as identified in assessments.

The LINK will provide ten (10) families (individual parents or youth) with peer support and case management services to youth and families who are at-risk or have been separated, and who are

affected by drug and alcohol abuse (contract with North County Connection). At least 75% of families receiving Drug and Alcohol services will show improvement in FDM assessments.

The LINK will coordinate a minimum of 6, 7-10 week courses in parenting education and parent skills workshops.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Clerk's File