

**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 the renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center), in the amount of \$170,170 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$170,170.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$170,170	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$170,170	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input 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 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) 19001158		(14) W-9 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date <u>Approved Dec 6, 2011</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 the renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center), in the amount of \$170,170 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$170,170.

DISCUSSION

In 1997 Assembly Bill 1193 allocated funds to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct local Kinship Support Services Programs (KSSP). These funds support community-based services to relative caregivers and the court dependent children placed in their homes and to relative caregivers of children who were at risk of court dependency or delinquency. The overall goals of KSSP are to:

- Establish a family support program that provides support services to relatives who provide homes for abused and neglected children/teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency.
- Ensure that children/teens maintain family ties.
- Increase a relative caregiver's capacity to obtain and maintain employment by providing supportive services, when appropriate.
- Improve outcomes of children/teens in the homes of their relatives.
- Provide services to children/teens and their relative caregivers to achieve stability, safety and permanency.

Required support services include intervention assistance aimed at maintaining the kinship family unit, transportation for medical care, education and recreational activities, referral services, counseling, tutoring/mentoring for children and teens, and collecting and reporting KSSP data to CDSS. Also included are post permanency services to relative caregivers who became the legal

guardian or adoptive parent of formerly dependent children.

The County has been contracting with the Kinship Center to provide relative caregiver services since FY 2006-2007. However effective July 1, 2011, Kinship merged with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) to further their vision of supporting children and families. Seneca is a leading innovator in the field of community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families. Their success rests upon the agency's commitment to five core service principles:

- Unconditional Care
- Parent-Driven, Strength-Based Service Planning
- Individualized Care
- Cultural Competence
- Interagency Collaboration

With a continuum of care ranging from intensive residential treatment, to in-home wraparound services, to public school-based services, Seneca is one of the premier children's mental health agencies in Northern California. Seneca will continue to operate the Kinship Center (Kinship) in Northern San Luis Obispo County (Templeton) and offer the Family Ties Relative Caregiver program. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including Kinship services, visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca/Kinship to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the Kinship Center Relative Caregiver Program, locally known as the Family Ties program. Most of the children served in this program have significant physical, emotional or developmental challenges, or suffer from past trauma. The Family Ties program offers specific hands-on support and education to relative caregivers to deal with the day-to-day needs of these children and youth. With the support of Family Ties staff, relative caregivers are able to manage family transitions and access essential community resources. The Seneca/Kinship will collaborate with the County Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist the families that have illustrated a desire for support and services that will result in a reduction in foster care re-entry rates by establishing stronger family ties and supports.

Seneca community-based and family-focused services further achieve the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting outcomes. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in the community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

If approved, Seneca through the Kinship Center will continue to provide the Family Ties program county-wide to help families enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities. The program provides monetary and emotional supports to local relative caregivers and the children placed in their home. Services include parent support groups; parent education; home visits; children's activity groups during support groups and education workshops, while also linking the social worker and other agency staff involved in the family case. The goals of all these services are to support children in relative placements by building the capacity of relative caregivers to meet their health, financial, social, emotional, and child rearing challenges.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The County has worked directly with Seneca/Kinship to assess DSS and community needs. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total cost of the contract for FY 2012-2013 is not to exceed \$170,170 for the term of the contract. KSSP is now funded by State Realignment 2011 funds. The amount of the distribution is based on the same amount as the FY 2011-2012 KSSP allocation. The cost of this contract is included in the Department's adopted budget for FY 2012-2013 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	Notes	Funding Allocations			
				Fed	St	Co	Realignment 2011
Seneca	\$170,170	\$170,170	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program				100%

RESULTS

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of providing case management services to at least twenty-five (25) relative caregivers and thirty (30) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County that resulted in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver. *A total of eighty seven (87) families, including one hundred and forty (140) children/teens, received case management services this year. There were twenty five (25) new families served this fiscal year and thirty nine (39) new children/youth. Of those children served this year none entered a therapeutic foster home. However, five (5) did return to birth parents which is the ultimate outcome.*

Seneca produced no newsletters and approximately thirty (30) flyers/announcements that were distributed to identified caregivers and partner agencies. *The number of newsletters produced was fewer than the anticipated four (4), or quarterly, due to the need to address the needs of the families served. Instead of quarterly newsletters Seneca produced bi-monthly and monthly flyers of announcements to keep families up-to-date on monthly events and activities. This has produced higher involvement with the families that Seneca serves. It was agreed at this time that no change will be made to the performance outcomes for FY 2012-2013. Seneca will continue to evaluate the needs of the families served and we will report on the written communication methods used in our next letter to the Board in FY 2013-2014.*

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of assisting at least twenty-five (25) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families. *Seneca distributed over seven hundred (700) food boxes, helped twelve (12) families with furniture, sixty five (65) families with needed clothing, and fifty three (53) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas.*

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least twenty-four (24) caregiver support groups [two (2) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups

concurrently held. *A total of thirty-five (35) support groups were organized and facilitated.*

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least five (5) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP. *A total of six (6) presentations were given to community partners in SLO County. Presentations included: Paso Robles Toy Bank Board of Directors, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Parent Design Team, ACT Training (2), Templeton's Chamber of Commerce, Food bank/KCOY*

FY 2012-2013

Seneca will provide case management services to at least twenty-five (25) relative caregivers and thirty (30) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County that results in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver.

Seneca will produce newsletters quarterly and distribute to identified caregivers and partner agencies.

Seneca will assist at least 25 families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least twenty-four (24) caregiver support groups for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least five (5) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Clerk's File