

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 9/25/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell 805.781.1831	
(4) SUBJECT Request to amend the service contract for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) by increasing the contract amount by \$70,668 for a total contract amount of \$240,838.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, Amendment One (1) with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program to increase the contract by \$70,668 for a total contract amount of \$240,838 in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$70,668	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$70,668	(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) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001158 (Original Agreement)		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date <u>Approved June 19, 2012</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW  Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

## County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services /Trish Avery Caldwell

DATE: 9/25/2012

SUBJECT: Request to amend the service contract for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) by increasing the contract amount by \$70,668 for a total contract amount of \$240,838.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, Amendment One (1) with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program to increase the contract by \$70,668 for a total contract amount of \$240,838 in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

### **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.

In 2005 the County submitted to CDSS a Request for Participation for Kinship Support Services Program funding and part of the criteria of the application required the County to partner with a private, non-profit organization to operate the KSSP program. In our application the non-profit named and approved by CDSS was Kinship Center (Kinship). Kinship began providing local relative caregiver services in FY 2006-2007, however effective July 1, 2011 Kinship merged with Seneca Center who shortly after became Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) and resulted in our contracting agency changing in name only. Kinship, now part of Seneca, continues to offer foster care, adoption, and kinship care to families including operating the Family Ties Caregiver Relative Program (Family Ties) in the North County.

Seneca began providing services in 1985 and has since become the 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 and will continue to operate the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program in Northern San Luis Obispo County. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including foster care, adoption and kinship services, visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca through Kinship to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the 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.

Over the past few years the Family Ties program has seen an average of twenty-five (25) new families annually, while the number of on-going cases receiving case management and supportive services has grown to an average of 50 or more families each year. Unfortunately contract funding has not kept pace with the level of services requested by families raising children with substantial needs. To provide case management services and remain in compliance with the required record keeping, data collection and reporting, the County is asking to increase the staffing for the Family Ties program by a .5 FTE Administrative Assistant and one (1) FTE Case Manager. Approval of this Amendment One (1) would double the number of families receiving case management services from twenty-five (25) to fifty (50). The service provided by the Family Ties program has successfully reduced foster care re-entry rates by establishing stronger family ties and supports. According to data provided by Seneca/Kinship nearly 100% of the children served by the program remain with their

initial caregiver placement.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The County has worked directly with Seneca to assess Department of Social Services' and community needs. County Counsel has reviewed and approved this Amendment One (1) as to legal form and effect.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### Original Approved Budget

On June 19, 2012 by Agenda Item #47, your Board approved the FY 2012-2013 Family Ties Relative Caregiver program contract with Seneca in the amount of amount \$170,170.

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%

### Amendment One (1)

The department is requesting to increase the current Family Ties program contract amount by \$70,668 to meet the higher case management staffing needs due to a larger number of families being served than contracted for. Based on the amended amount, the total contract amount would be \$240,838. KSSP is funded by State Realignment 2011 funds. The additional cost of this contract will be covered with appropriation savings in account 5206060 (Contracted Services Clients). The Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO), Childcare and Cal-Learn contracts were lower than budgeted and we have approximately \$217K available at this time. When the FY 2012-2013 budget was prepared, the department anticipated and budgeted for an increase in both the CAPSLO Childcare and Cal-Learn contracts. Those anticipated increases were not necessary and both contracts for FY 2012-2013 are the same as the FY 2011-2012 amounts. As a result, the department will realize some savings which will more than offset the requested increase to the contract with Seneca. The amendment 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	\$240,838	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program				100%

## **RESULTS**

*Based on the newfunding level the number of families receiving on-going case management services has been doubled to serve a minimum of fifty (50) families. It is still anticipated that approximately twenty five (25) new families will also be serviced. Outcomes for this fiscal year have not been reported on at this time. The first quarter results are due to the County on October 20, 2012.*

## FY 2012-2013

Seneca will provide case management services to at least fifty (50) relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County.

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

Seneca will assist at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, ovens, refrigerators, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least thirty (30) caregiver support groups [four (4) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. FY 2012-13 Seneca Amendment 1 Contract
2. FY 2012-13 Seneca Amendment 1 Exhibit A
3. FY 2012-13 Seneca Amendment 1 Exhibit B
4. FY 2012-13 Seneca Amendment 1 Exhibit B-1