

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 7/8/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell 805.781.1728	
(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 (Seneca), in the amount of \$240,838 for Fiscal Year 2014-15. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2014-15 in the amount of \$240,838.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011 (100%)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(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) 19001410		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 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>July 16, 2013</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
(805) 781-1728

DATE: 7/8/2014

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 (Seneca), in the amount of \$240,838 for Fiscal Year 2014-15. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2014-15 in the amount of \$240,838.

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 had been contracting with the Kinship Center (Kinship) to provide relative caregiver services since FY 2006-2007 based on a KSSP grant from CDSS. However effective July 1, 2011, Kinship merged with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) to expand their vision of supporting children and families. Seneca, a non-profit corporation, began providing services in 1985 and is a leading innovator in the field of community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families that is dedicated to being a "system of care" agency that meets the multiple needs of children and families. Services provided range from home-like residential treatment, to in-home wraparound services, to public school-based mental health services. Seneca credits their success upon the agency's commitment to five core service principles:

- Unconditional Care
- Parent-Driven, Strength-Based Service Planning

- Individualized Care
- Cultural Competence
- Interagency Collaboration

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the Family Ties program which is offered at the Kinship Center in Northern San Luis Obispo County (Templeton). 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. Seneca collaborates with the County Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist 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. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including kinship services, you may visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

If the renewal contract is approved, Seneca through the Templeton-based Kinship Center will continue to provide the Family Ties program county-wide that offers community-based and family-focused services. The program provides monetary and emotional supports to local relative caregivers and the children placed in their home. Local 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.

The Family Ties program achieves 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.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

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

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total cost of the contract for FY 2014-15 is \$240,838 for the term of the contract. Seneca services are funded by State Realignment 2011 funds. The cost of this contract is included in the Department’s adopted budget for FY 2014-15 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency	Budgeted FY 12-13	Budgeted FY 13-14	Budgeted FY 14-15	Notes	Funding Allocations			
					Fed	St	Co	Realignment 2011
Seneca	\$240,838	\$240,838	\$240,838	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program	-	-	-	100%

RESULTS

As of March 31, 2014, a total of ninety one (91) relative caregiver families received Family Ties services. It is anticipated that the number of families served will be higher by the end of the contract year.

FY 2013-2014

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of providing case management services to at least fifty (50) relative

caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in SLO County that resulted in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver. *As of March 31, 2014, a total of ninety one (91) families, including one hundred forty one (141) children/teens received case management services. The numbers include nine (9) new families and eleven (11) new children/youth. Of the families served three (3) cases closed for the following reasons:*

- 1. The relative caregiver adopted the two (2) children*
- 2. One (1) child returned to birth parent(s)*
- 3. One (1) family/child was stable and no longer needed services*

A total of one hundred percent (100%) remained in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome to produce a newsletter quarterly (total of 4). As of March 31, 2014, a total of fifteen (15) newsletters and eighteen (18) flyers/announcements were produced and distributed to families served. The Kinship Center produces monthly flyers/announcements in addition to a newsletter as they produced higher involvement with the families that they serve. It is anticipated the number of newsletters/flyers produced will be higher by the end of the contract year.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of assisting at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families. As of March 31, 2014, Kinship Center provided the following basic needs:

- 1. Distributed over four hundred fifty (450) food boxes*
- 2. Helped one (1) families with furniture*
- 3. Helped thirteen (13) families with clothing*
- 4. Helped sixty nine (69) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas.*

It is anticipated that the number of supportive services provided will be higher by the end of the contract.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least thirty (30) caregiver support groups [four (4) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held. As of March 31, 2014, a total of thirty-two (32) support groups were organized and facilitated. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by the end of the contract.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP. As of March 31, 2014, a total of six (6) presentations were given to community partners in SLO County. Presentations included: Kinship Care at St. Andrews Catholic Church, Cambria Connections Board of Directors, Welcoming Children Home – resource table, DSS Interagency Meeting, Paso Robles LINK, Foster parent Academy. It is anticipated that at least four (4) additional presentations will be made by the end of the contract.

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2012-2013 and received July 20, 2013, a total of ten (10) presentations were completed and included: Martha's Place, Paso Robles Community Collaborative, Foster Parent Association [(3): "Welcome Home", Individual Donors, "Old Fashion Christmas"], and Cuesta College, (2), Kinship Care Templeton Presbyterian Church, and Community Outreach Centers in Nipomo and Oceano.

FY 2014-2015

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. Seneca Clerk's File Statement