



23-1647

**DATE:** February 6, 2024 (Item No. 23-1647)

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Daniel Little, Director, Social Services Agency

**SUBJECT:** Amendment 3: Seneca Family of Agencies - Intensive Services Foster Care-Plus Program

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve retroactive Third Amendment to Agreement with Seneca Family of Agencies relating to providing Intensive Services Foster Care-Plus Program, previously called Enhanced Therapeutic Foster Care, increasing the maximum contract amount by \$1,175,616 from \$2,293,368 to \$3,468,984, and extending the agreement for a 12-month period through June 30, 2024, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality. (LA-1)

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the County General Fund resulting from the approval of the Recommended Action.

The total cost of the agreement with Seneca Family of Agencies related to the Intensive Services Foster Care-Plus Program, in the amount of \$1,175,616 for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Adopted Budget. Of the total cost of the contract, \$491,760 will be reimbursed by state revenue.

The remaining cost of the contract for \$683,856 will be reimbursed by the Wraparound Reinvestment Fund. This Fund consists of savings realized over several years from the delivery of wraparound services to clients of Social Services Agency (SSA), Probation Department (PD), and Behavioral Health Services Department (BHSD). The Fiscal Standards for Wraparound Services require that these cost savings be reinvested to expand and enhance services and resources for children and families. Funds should not supplant prior County funding for the same services.

**CONTRACT HISTORY**

On July 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Enhanced Intensive Therapeutic Foster Care (E-ITFC) Contract with Seneca Family of Agencies in an amount not to exceed \$628,368 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. A Single Source Exception to Competitive Procurement was approved due to the unique licensing standards

Approved: 02/06/2024

that are required by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division.

The First Amendment to the agreement was approved through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Master Contract List (MCL) increasing the maximum contract amount by \$633,024 from \$628,368 to \$1,261,392 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and extending the agreement through June 30, 2022.

On June 7, 2022, the Board approved the Second Amendment to the agreement increasing the maximum contract amount by \$1,031,976 from \$1,261,392 to \$2,293,368 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

With the approval of the Third Amendment, the maximum contract amount will be increased by \$1,175,616 from \$2,293,368 to \$3,468,984 for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Beginning FY 2024, the program transitioned from E-ITFC to Intensive Services Foster Care-Plus (IFCS-Plus) to align with other programs offering similar services to the targeted population in Santa Clara County.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the California Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 403 and Senate Bill (SB) 794, otherwise known as the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), to comprehensively reform placement and treatment options for children and youth who are placed in foster care by the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. The reform's overarching goal is to substantially reduce and transform the use of congregate care facilities as a placement setting and provide statutory and policy framework to ensure that services and supports provided to the child or youth are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable permanent family.

On January 1, 2017, specific sections of AB 403 became operative as the CDSS established and started implementing the new guidelines for the conversion of most congregate care facilities into Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), primarily to serve as a trauma-informed, culturally relevant, family- and solution-focused program designed to stabilize the mental and behavioral health of children and youth who have significant mental or developmental problems that clearly require treatment in a residential placement.

On September 18, 2020, the California Governor signed AB 2944, further amending the CCR. One provision of the bill authorizes CDSS to develop, implement, and approve alternative funding models for innovative models of care and services that provide children with service alternatives to residential care. Such provision is upon request by the counties, allowing each County to adopt placement options that enhance the ability of children to remain in the least restrictive, most family-like setting possible, and promote services that address the needs and strengths of individual children and their families.

ISFC-Plus homes will be in accessible areas that will allow connections to on-going natural supports, including family relationships and treatment providers. ISFC-Plus homes will provide integrated mental health services, essential needs, and life skills like those offered in an STRTP.

The mission of SSA is to provide resources in a culturally responsive manner to enhance the

quality of life in our community by protecting, educating and empowering individuals and families. ISFC-Plus is a program that offers community placement options for youth and children in Santa Clara County with high acute behaviors equivalent to those behaviors that would place youth in a congregate care setting. ISFC-Plus aims at stabilizing youth behaviors in a community setting to maintain youth in a normalized and sustainable home setting. The program integrates specialty mental health services with therapeutic foster care support to offer youth and children adequate resources for a successful transition into a stable home environment. The third amendment will increase the funding in order to align rates to STRTP rates set by CDSS. The contract is retro due to extended contract negotiations between the County and the Vendor, and internal review.

In accordance with Board of Supervisors (Board) Policy 5.3.5.1, the Board is the only body that has the authority to enter into contracts and issue solicitations on behalf of the County, unless the contracting authority has been specifically delegated to someone other than the Board pursuant to state law, County Ordinance Code, resolution, or express action of the Board.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on the Safe and Stable Families indicator by providing services to foster youth in crisis to help them stabilize and maintain a nurturing permanent placement in a community setting.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

If the amendment is not executed, the County will be unable to continue to offer placement and services under the ISFC-Plus program to foster children and youth experiencing high acute behaviors.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Clerk of the Board is kindly requested to notify Jorge Montes, Alana Rainville, Chad Keele, and Thao Hoang from SSA upon approval of this amendment.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- FY24 Amendment 3 – Seneca – ISFC-Plus
- Contract History