

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-4

AGENDA DATE: May 16, 2017

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Issue a Request for Proposal for the Provision of Private Investigation Services for Runaway/Missing Children in Foster Care

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

No. 2017-249

On motion of Supervisor Olsen, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Withrow, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency  
Urgent  Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-4

AGENDA DATE: May 16, 2017

CEO CONCURRENCE: *phx*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes  No

*KH*

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Issue a Request for Proposal for the Provision of Private Investigation Services for Runaway/Missing Children in Foster Care

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Authorize the General Services Agency (GSA) Purchasing Division to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of the Community Services Agency for the provision of private investigation services for runaway/missing children in Foster Care for the contract period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Community Services Agency (CSA) contracts with numerous individuals and agencies to provide essential services to Stanislaus County residents. In most cases, individuals and agencies are selected through a competitive process, which takes into account specific expertise, as well as cost efficiency. Agreements are renewed based on a demonstrated ability to deliver required outcomes effectively, along with availability of funding. While a number of agencies have successful, long term partnering relationships with CSA, County procurement guidelines state that non-professional contracted services which have reached a \$45,000 cumulative level and have not been previously competitively procured or those that have been previously competitively procured but have now reached the maximum three year term imposed by the California Department of Social Services Management and Office Procedure 23-621, shall be competitively procured.

On September 29, 2014 the President of the United States signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PL113-183) which amended a number of provisions in Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, which authorizes federal foster care programs. Among the many provisions designed to increase the oversight by the child welfare or probation agency of youth receiving child welfare services, these youth are the most vulnerable to sexual trafficking and exploitation.

Consistent with the provisions of PL 113-183 and in consultation with stakeholders, California created statewide standards to locate youth missing from foster care via SB 794 (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2015). Effective January 1, 2016 Welfare and Institutions (WIC) Code 16501.35 now requires counties to develop and implement policies and procedures to expeditiously locate any child missing from care.

## Approval to Issue a Request for Proposal for the Provision of Private Investigation Services for Runaway/Missing Children in Foster Care

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In the spring of 2015 Stanislaus County finalized their Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Investigation Protocol to ensure agencies worked together to investigate, case manage, and provide services to CSEC and their families. In the fall of 2015 the State Department of Social Services identified Stanislaus County Child Welfare Services as a Tier II County and provided state funding to the County for supportive services for CSEC youth and their families.

With the passage of SB 794 a consistent approach for finding youth was established and includes the caregiver to immediately report missing youth to the local law enforcement agency. The County is also required to provide due diligent searches to locate the youth. The social worker works to locate the youth by contacting significant persons in the child's life; requesting caregiver and/or parent to keep social worker updated; physically checking all the places where the youth is likely to be; following up on leads; requesting law enforcement agencies to conduct a welfare check; search social media websites, and search public locator databases.

Since the CSEC Protocol was established Child Welfare Services has been working with governmental and nonprofit partners to identify and provide services to CSEC victims; the most difficult group of youth to engage are the runaway/missing youth. An additional factor is the youth often do not remain in Stanislaus County, they often run or taken to the Bay Area, Southern California, Sacramento, Fresno or out of State. Due to the sophistication of most traffickers, the social workers and the youth's family have a difficult time locating the missing youth and bringing them to safety. Also, if a youth is not trafficked prior to their running away from foster care, they are at a very high risk to become a CSEC youth just to survive on the streets.

Private Investigation Services will bring an expertise to Child Welfare Services that currently is missing. They are trained and have the resources to track runaway/missing youth no matter where the youth goes in the State. They will work in partnership with law enforcement so tasks are not duplicated.

The current provider, whose contract will expire June 30, 2017, was chosen to utilize their effective communication, computer proficiency, sound knowledge of the law, organization, patience, ingenuity, and tenacity to locate and return youth to the safety of foster care.

The Community Services Agency is now requesting approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of private investigation services for children in Foster Care. The procurement method will be a "best value" approach, which means that the County is prepared to award a single contract or multiple contracts to the Proposer(s) who offer the most cost-effective and comprehensive solutions.

The Department will return to the Board upon completion of the RFP process with a final contract(s) recommendation.

### **POLICY ISSUE:**

Approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of private investigation services for runaway/missing children in Foster Care will allow the Community Service Agency to meet the County Purchasing Department's procurement guidelines that state non-professional contracted services which have reached a \$45,000 cumulative level and have not

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yet been competitively procured or those that have been previously competitively procured but have now reached the maximum three year term imposed by the California Department of Social Services Management and Office Procedure 23-621, shall be competitively procured.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total cost of the private investigation services contract(s) is estimated to be approximately \$40,000 for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and is one hundred percent State funded. The appropriations and corresponding estimated revenues will be included in the Community Services Agency Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Proposed Budget submission. The private investigation services for children in Foster Care appropriations and estimated revenues for the remaining two years of the awarded contract(s) is projected to be sustained at the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 funding level and will be included in the Agency's budget submission for the subsequent fiscal years.

There is no additional cost to the General Fund associated with this agenda item.

<b>Cost of recommended action:</b>		\$ 40,000
<b>Source(s) of Funding:</b>		
State Funding	\$ 40,000	
<b>Funding Total:</b>		<u>\$ 40,000</u>
<b>Net Cost to County General Fund</b>		<u>\$ -</u>

<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	2017/2018
<b>Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:</b>	No

**Fund Balance as of** N/A

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

Approval of this request to issue an RFP supports the Board of Supervisors' priorities of A Healthy Community, A Safe Community, Effective Partnerships and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by meeting a community need for services that improves the health and well-being of children and families in our community.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Existing Community Services Agency and General Services Agency Purchasing staff is available to support this RFP process.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director (209) 558-2500

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

None