

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, August 19, 2020
TIME: **2:30 PM**

DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:

Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 747311624#

AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**
 - CS-1 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL** – Existing Litigation
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(1)
Katie A. v. County of Los Angeles
- III. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS):** Families First Prevention Services Act Quarterly Update. **2:30 PM**
 - b. **Department of Public Health:** Domestic Violence Prevention Services CARES Act Spending Plan. **3:00 PM**
- IV. Informational Items:
 - a. **DCFS:** Request for Approval of a Three-Month Contract Extension with the Regents of the University of California for Evaluation Services.
- V. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjournment



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

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Director

GINGER PRYOR
Chief Deputy Director

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September 8, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A THREE-MONTH CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FOR EVALUATION SERVICES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests your Board's approval to amend the Sole Source Contract with The Regents of the University of California through the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) for the provision of evaluation services as part of the Online Mandated Reporting Pilot (Pilot) beyond the original Contract term.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to execute an amendment substantially similar to Attachment A to the contract with UCLA. The amendment will extend the Contract for a three-month term as justified per Board Policy 5.100 in Attachment B and will be effective October 10, 2020, through December 31, 2020. The cost to extend the contract is \$11,187, financed by 100 percent 2011 State Realignment Funds. There will not be any net County cost associated with this Contract.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to execute amendments to the terms and conditions, Statement of Work and exhibits to the Contract in order to meet the needs of the program; or to increase or decrease the Maximum Contract Sum up to 10 percent if such an amendment is necessary to meet a change in service demand provided that the necessary funding is available in the budget. Approval from County Counsel will be obtained prior to executing such amendment, and DCFS will notify the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in writing within 10 business days of execution of the amendments.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to terminate the Contract for convenience or default. The approval of County Counsel will be obtained prior to terminating the Contract, and DCFS will notify the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 business days of contract termination.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 10, 2017, the Board approved the request to negotiate a Sole Source Contract with The Regents of the University of California through UCLA for the provision of evaluation services as part of the Pilot. The current Contract is under the last renewal option and will expire on October 9, 2020, if the extension is not granted.

The Los Angeles County was the only county within the State of California to opt to participate in the Pilot, which was created by Senate Bill 478 and effective as of January 1, 2016. The Pilot allows participating counties to test the concept of an online reporting system with a group of trained mandated reporters in non-urgent situations, with the hope of creating a more efficient process. As provided in PC § 11166.02(a)(2) and W&IC § 10612.5 (b), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will oversee and administer the Pilot, providing written guidance and directives.

The Los Angeles County Child Abuse Reporting Electronic System (CARES) is an online reporting platform designed and developed internally by DCFS and implemented on November 15, 2017. This platform includes a standardized safety assessment of qualifying questions (aligned with Structured Decision Making) and excludes the submission of emergent reports where the child is subject to immediate risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation or is in imminent danger of severe harm or death. UCLA was secured as an independent evaluator to determine the effectiveness, validity in assessing safety and the overall quality of service of the Pilot for the duration of the program.

The CARES online reporting platform has exceeded expectations. As of April 30, 2019, 778 (21.5%) online reports were submitted in the first 11 months of the Pilot prior to the expansion as compared to 2,849 (78.5%) online reports submitted in the last seven months after the expansion. The completion rate of reports remains high. School personnel are the largest user group of the online system.

Since the implementation of the CARES portal, the number of calls to the Hotline have decreased and non-emergent reports made online can be assessed throughout the course of the workday when the call volume is at a manageable level. With less calls to the Hotline, wait times are reduced for those who are calling regarding emergent situations, diminishing any delays to respond to a child in imminent danger.

DCFS is requesting to extend the current Sole Source Contract with UCLA to continue the Pilot until a new Senate Bill is adopted to make the Online Reporting System permanent. The

three-month extension term will finalize the evaluation pilot which will exceed the new legislation requirement and is anticipated to be in place by January 2021. The new legislation is anticipated to eliminate the need for the evaluator, as CARES will no longer be in pilot mode; therefore, DCFS is requesting a three-month extension term through December 31, 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan, Goal 3: Realize Tomorrow's Government Today; Strategy III.2.3 Prioritize and Implement Technology Initiatives That Enhance Service Delivery and Increase Efficiency to support implementation of technological enhancements and acquisitions that increase efficiency (e.g. infrastructure, software, hardware, applications) including replacement of legacy systems.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Maximum Trimestral Contract Sum for the contract term will be \$11,187, financed by 100 percent 2011 State Realignment Funds. There will be no net County cost associated with this Contract. Sufficient funding is in the DCFS Fiscal Year 2020-21 Adopted Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 10, 2017, the Board approved DCFS' request to contract with UCLA for the provision of evaluation services as part of the Pilot.

The DCFS evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply. County employees cannot effectively perform these services because they require the development and utilization of resources that are not available in the County system.

UCLA is a prestigious public research university recognized for a strong focus on innovative research. UCLA is also a strong partner in the University of Consortium for Children and Families Training Center facilitating trainings for DCFS University.

County Counsel and the CEO have reviewed this Board Letter. County Counsel approved the amendment as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DCFS is requesting to extend the current Sole Source Contract with UCLA for the provision of evaluation services. This public university is uniquely qualified to comprehensively evaluate effectiveness of the Pilot in capturing non-emergent reports of child abuse in a more efficient manner while maintaining child safety. A Sole Source Contract Amendment is also

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required because the department does not have delegated authority to extend the existing agreement.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will enable DCFS to continue to meet the requirement of the Pilot and to capture and respond to reports of child abuse in a more efficient manner. In addition, allowing the independent evaluator to assess outcome measures set by CDSS, Child Welfare Directors Association and DCFS.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of this Board letter to:

Department of Children and Family Services
Contracts Administration Division
Attention: Leticia Torres-Ibarra, Division Manager
425 Shatto Place, Room 400
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

BDC:GP:CMM
KR:LTI:vf

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors