

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, May 19, 2021
TIME: 1:30 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: 599 009 090#

AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)/ Probation Department/ Sheriff's Department:** Los Angeles County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Integrated Leadership Team.
 - b. **Department of Public Social Services:** Recommendation to Award Contract to Universal Protection Services, LP to Provide Armed and Unarmed Security Guard Services.
 - c. **DCFS:** Request Approval of a Sole Source Contract with the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles for the Coordination of Emergency Child Care Services.
 - d. **DCFS:** Extended Foster Care Services Update.
- III. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



ADOLFO GONZALES
Chief Probation Officer

June 1, 2021

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Adolfo Gonzales *Adolfo Gonzales*
Chief Probation Officer
CSEC Integrated Leadership Team

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) INTERGRATED LEADERSHIP TEAM (ILT) ITEM R-1, AGENDA OF MARCH 8, 2016**

The last ILT report to the Board was provided on February 9, 2021. The current ILT report will cover the following updates:

- 1) Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP),
- 2) Advocacy Services,
- 3) Training,
- 4) Victim Witness Testimony Protocol,
- 5) Safe Youth Zone,
- 6) Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children (HST), Budget Allowance and Spending Plan

I. LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRST RESPONDER PROTOCOL

The FRP was originally implemented on August 14, 2014, and continues to serve as a guide to law enforcement, county agencies, and community-based advocates on appropriate steps to take within the first 72 hours of interfacing with an identified or suspected child victim of sexual exploitation, using a victim-centered, multi-agency response model approach. From August 14, 2014 through May 5, 2021, there were a total of 1,013 recoveries. Since the last ILT report on February 9, 2021, there have been an additional 38 recoveries in the FRP areas.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

FRP Expansion to Independent Municipalities

Expansion of the FRP continues to be a priority for the Integrated Leadership Team. Expansion efforts have been successful this past reporting period, as both Inglewood and Hawthorne Police Departments have recently signed the FRP Operational Agreement. The ILT will continue to engage the other independent law enforcement agencies and report back on our progress.

II. ADVOCACY SERVICES

On September 24, 2019, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), through a Request for Proposal (RFP), awarded advocacy contracts to Saving Innocence and ZOE International to increase capacity and expand services to those who are not only victims of commercial sexual exploitation, but also to those who are at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, the contract was expanded to provide services to Non-Minor Dependent Youth (18-21 years old) who are either at-risk or victims of CSE. Since the start of the new contract, there have been 345 CSEC Advocacy Referrals made, with an average of 19 referrals completed each month from October 1, 2019 through March 2021. There are 221 active cases as of February 15, 2021.

Youth feedback on Advocacy Services has been positive. Thirty (30) surveys have been completed by youth from November 2019 through April 9, 2021, with the results showing that 100 percent (100%) of the respondents gave a positive Likert rating of “Highly Agree” and “Agree” on a five (5)-point Likert rating scale (Highly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Highly Disagree) to all the statements included on the survey. One hundred percent (100%) of the respondents highly agreed or agreed with the following statements:

- “Staff treated me with respect”.
- “I felt I had someone to talk to”.
- “I got as much help as I needed”.
- “I felt I had someone to talk to”.
- “Advocacy goals were based on my input and needs that I have/had”.
- “I accomplished the goals I wanted to achieve”.
- “I would recommend Advocacy Service to other youth”.

Termination of Advocacy Services Reports submitted from January 2020 through February 2021, show that fifty-five percent (55%) of the youth are terminated from the Advocacy program due to high levels of instability and runaway behaviors, which is one of the primary challenges often experienced when working with youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Twelve percent (12%) successfully completed the program during the first 17 months of the implementation of the new Advocacy contracts. Additional successful completions of the program are expected as youth have the additional time necessary to benefit from the services and recover, which often

requires several years. While many do not complete the program due to the instability related to victims of exploitation and the many difficult challenges to leaving an exploitive relationship, youth still benefit from establishing connections to caring and safe adults who advocate and support them when youth do return and re-engage. Graph 1 shows the various reasons for termination of Advocacy Services.

Graph 1

Reasons for Advocacy Services Terminations (January 2020-February 2021) (N=224):

| Termination Reason | Percentage | Number |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Runaway/Missing Youth | 31% | 69 |
| Refusing Services/Youth Not Engaging | 24% | 54 |
| Out of County/Out of State | 15% | 33 |
| Completed Program | 12% | 26 |
| FRP Response Only/FRP Out of State/Out of County Youth | 10% | 23 |
| DCFS Closed Case | 7% | 15 |
| Aged Out (21+) | Less than 1% | 2 |
| Other | Less than 1% | 2 |

CSEC Advocacy Services Contract Budget:

The Advocacy Services contract budget is \$2,000,000 each contract year. However, the CSEC Spending Plan was only able to allocate \$1,800,000 for each fiscal year for Advocacy Services due to State budget cuts and other funding obligations aimed to locate and recover missing exploited youth. To fill the \$200,000 funding gap, the ILT plans to utilize HST funds to ensure that services to youth are not interrupted throughout the life of the contract. This contract will be extended through March 23, 2023, to accommodate the implementation and evaluation of a new Prevention component to the program, which is described in the following section of the report. Based on current spending trends for this fiscal year, it is projected that the Advocacy Agencies will be spending the full amount allocated under the contract, as additional hours of Advocacy Services were provided to meet the psychological and emotional needs of youth brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, referrals to Advocacy Services have accumulated to the point where one of the Advocacy agencies is at maximum caseload capacity as of the day of this writing (April 14, 2021).

The HST Spending Plan, incorporated as Attachment E, has been updated to reflect the transfer of \$200,000 from the CSEC housing line item to the Victim's Services line item for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. Transferring funds from the CSEC housing line item will not be of detrimental impact to housing development efforts since said efforts are being funded through the regular foster care Title IV-E funding stream.

III. TRAINING

Since early 2015, the County, in collaboration with Nola Brantley Speaks, provided various in-person trainings for county employees, foster care providers, court personnel, school personnel, advocates and community partners. These trainings covered a broad range of topics including: CSEC 101 and 102; Trauma, including its impact on CSEC, and how adults can best respond to these needs; Internet exploitation; CSEC amongst gay males and transgender females; working with young men who have experienced sexual trauma and violence, and most recently, a training on secondary trauma and compassion fatigue for those working directly with high-risk populations. During this time, there were a total of 353 trainings delivered with approximately 42,000 participants. See **Attachment A** for the final training summary. The contract with Nola Brantley Speaks expired on February 28, 2021.

CSEC/Human Trafficking Training Request for Proposals (RFP)

On September 15, 2020, Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl moved that the Office of Child Protection (OCP), in collaboration with DCFS and Probation, conduct an expedited solicitation to vendors with known CSEC expertise to provide training to community members, service providers, DCFS, Probation, other County Departments, law enforcement agencies, and any other external partners as a means of prevention and intervention.

DCFS and Probation worked with the OCP to prepare and release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a new contract for CSEC/Human Trafficking Training Services. On December 10, 2020, the RFP was released, and, on February 8, 2021, OCP notified the Board that the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) was identified as the selected contractor. On February 17, 2021, OCP hosted a negotiation meeting with CAST and on February 19, 2021, OCP officially handed over the contract to DCFS for contract management and monitoring, at which point additional refinements and clarifications were made to the contract. The training contract was expected to launch on April 1, 2021, however, CAST requires additional time to hire a new training Director. Therefore, the new CSEC/Human Trafficking contract launch date is set to begin on May 1, 2021.

County CSEC On-Line Module

On November 14, 2017, a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn instructed the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to add the CSEC training module to their online offerings, requiring Los Angeles County employees to participate in this training as part of their new employee orientation. In May 2018, the online training was made available to all county employees through the Learning Net platform, and on August 1, 2018, an email notification was sent out to all county departments informing them that the training was mandatory for all county employees. As of April 16, 2021, a total of 78,177 (76%) county employees have completed the mandatory training, an increase of one percent (1%)

since the last ILT report in February 2021. See **Attachment B** for training compliance by Department.

On September 28, 2020, DHR requested that Probation provide a script of the training module to provide a closed-caption option. On November 20, 2020, Probation provided the video narratives to DHR. DHR is in the process of adding the narratives to the existing training module and expects completion July 2021.

IV. VICTIM WITNESS TESTIMONY PROTOCOL

Children and youth who have been commercially sexually exploited are often called upon to testify in court to aid in the criminal prosecution of their exploiters. Generally, the experience of appearing and testifying in court can be stress-inducing and traumatizing and is made even more so when testifying against one's exploiter. Victims of exploitation are often bonded to their exploiters and feel an allegiance to them. Victims are highly likely to be fearful of violent retribution against themselves or their friends and families for testifying against their exploiters. Additionally, victims must publicly recount difficult and painful events face-to-face with their exploiters and a room full of other adults and strangers. Victim witness testimony can also be difficult for caregivers and family members of the victim. The exposure of the family/caregiver/guardian may create concerns for their own safety. The court testimony may also be the first time that families, caregivers and/or guardians hear the often graphic and disturbing details of the physical, psychological, and sexual abuse the youth experienced during their exploitation.

To decrease the risk of re-traumatization and harm to youth who are asked to testify in criminal proceedings against their exploiter, and to support the goal of zealous prosecution of exploiters, Los Angeles County convened a multi-agency workgroup in early 2015 to develop the Victim Witness Testimony Protocol (VWTP). This multi-agency workgroup includes Probation, DCFS, Department of Mental Health (DMH), District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Independent Juvenile Defender, STAR Court, Children's Law Center, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), specialized advocacy agencies Saving Innocence and ZOE, and the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). This workgroup authored the draft protocol and continues to co-facilitate the workgroup meetings, provide technical assistance, and will be finalizing both the full written protocol as well as materials to support implementation, such as one-page guides highlighting individual agency roles and responsibilities.

The workgroup is committed to getting the protocol completed to provide victim witnesses with the services and support they need to avoid re-traumatization and aid in the successful prosecution of exploiters. The workgroup last met on April 14, 2021, to conduct a final review of agency one-pagers outlining each of the participating agency's roles and responsibilities and is now ready to launch the protocol on May 3, 2021. The protocol will launch as a pilot for six to nine (6-9) months, during which time partners will roll out the protocol, continue to meet regularly to identify any gaps, challenges and lessons learned from implementing the protocol, and brainstorm solutions. Once the pilot is completed, NCYL will make any necessary changes, and finalize the protocol and

one-page agency guides. In addition, NCYL will assist in preparing an Operational Agreement for all of the partner agencies.

V. SAFE YOUTH ZONE

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion authored by Supervisor Hahn and former Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directing the County of Los Angeles CSEC ILT to engage with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), DMH, Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Health Services (DHS), DCFS, Probation, Sheriff's Department (LASD), and County Fire Department, and directed the ILT to work on the following:

1. Implementation plan that includes strategies to expand the Safe Youth Zone to all existing FRP locations (LASD, LAPD, and Pomona PD), County Fire, County Medical operations and clinics, and other applicable county departments;
2. Strategy to engage and partner with agencies outside of the County of Los Angeles, including law enforcement, hospitals and clinics, fire departments, and schools;
3. Training strategy to educate agency participants on the Safe Youth Zone protocol; and
4. Any other necessary resources for the Los Angeles County Safe Youth Zone Program expansion.

Following the issuance of the June 9, 2020, Board Motion, the ILT held an initial workgroup meeting on June 10, 2020, to begin discussions regarding the Board Motion directives and has been meeting monthly since. Phase 1 workgroup agencies include Probation Department, DCFS, LASD, DHS, DMH, DPH, LA City Fire Department, and NCYL.

The goal of the Safe Youth Zone is to provide an easily identifiable location for youth at-risk of harm to seek refuge and be connected to services. Once a youth seeks help at a designated Safe Youth Zone, agency personnel will assess for immediate needs (including medical care or other basic needs). Agency personnel will then follow their internal protocol for fulfilling obligations as mandated reporters, and, as necessary, make a report of suspected child abuse either to law enforcement or to the DCFS's Child Protection Hotline.

For youth who are suspected victims of commercial sexual exploitation, DCFS Child Protection Hotline will initiate the FRP, as applicable. The FRP involves a collaborative, ninety (90) minute response by DCFS and/or Probation, a specialized CSEC advocate, and law enforcement if needed. Youth will remain in the Safe Youth Zone until the FRP responders arrive. Using the FRP as the response for those youth identified as at-risk of exploitation or identified as commercially sexually exploited will require a further

expansion of the FRP protocol, which will be set forth in an addendum to the protocol drafted by NCYL. The addendum will lay out the specific steps for each FRP partner agency when a youth is identified at a Safe Youth Zone location. For youth who are not suspected victims of commercial sexual exploitation, law enforcement and/or DCFS will initiate their standard internal response.

With these goals in mind, the workgroup has been focusing on the following to ensure that the Board deliverables are met: 1) creation of a poster (in both English and Spanish) that describes sex and labor trafficking as a form of child abuse and includes the Safe Youth Zone logo (**Attachment C**); 2) developing a one-page quick reference guide outlining the steps to be taken if someone comes into the agency asking for help or who is suspected of being a victim of trafficking (**Attachment D**); 3) producing a 30-minute video for each of the agencies to educate their personnel on the issue of exploitation, mandated reporting, and the Safe Youth Zone protocol; 4) developing a training strategy for agency participants to educate them on the Safe Youth Zone protocol, including each agency's responsibilities; and 5) creating a toolkit for each agency which can be provided to outside providers/partners to implement.

It is anticipated that the first phase of implementation will be August 15, 2021.

VI. HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, STRONG FAMILIES, THRIVING CHILDREN (HST), BUDGET ALLOWANCE AND SPENDING PLAN

The HST Budget is included in **Attachment E**, reflecting the original and revised budget line items and spending plans from FY 2015-16 through FY 2019-20, and the revised line-item budget items and spending plan for FY 2020-21. Further HST budget recommendations will be reported out in the next ILT report dated for October 6, 2021.

The ILT will provide the following updates in the next report:

- FRP Recovery update, expansion efforts, and research recommendations;
- CSEC Advocacy Services referrals and engagement activities;
- Training;
- Safe Youth Zone deliverables;
- Victim Witness Testimony protocol;
- Housing, and
- HST Budget recommendations;

Each Supervisor

June 1, 2021

Page 8 of 8

Should your Board have any questions or require additional information, please contact Probation Director Michelle Guymon at (661) 236-5405.

AG:FC:PV:MG:cm

Attachments (5)

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Alex Villanueva, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel
Bobby Cagle, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Daryl L. Osby, Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Antonia Jimenez, Director of Department of Public Social Services
Justice Deputies
Children's & Justice Deputies
CSEC ILT Members



ANTONIA JIMÉNEZ
Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH ■ CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 ■ Fax (562) 695-4801



Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District
SHEILA KUEHL
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

June 8, 2021

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:

**RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO
UNIVERSAL PROTECTION SERVICES, LP TO PROVIDE
ARMED AND UNARMED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES
(ALL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) seeks Board approval to award a contract to Universal Protection Services, LP dba Allied Universal Security Services (Allied) for Armed and Unarmed Security Guard Services at DPSS locations listed in the attached contract and at other facilities as needed.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Section 2.121.420 that Armed and Unarmed Security Guard services can be more economically performed by an independent contractor than by County employees (Enclosures I and II).
2. Approve and instruct the Board Chair to sign the enclosed contracts (Enclosures III and IV) with Allied for the provision of Armed and Unarmed Security Guard Services. The contracts will be effective for three years, from June 23, 2021 through June 22, 2024, with a maximum contract sum of \$12,268,536 for the North Sector and \$21,258,662 for the South Sector for a total of \$33,527,198.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DPSS, or her designee, to extend the contract for up to two (2) additional one-year periods. Prior to executing such amendments, DPSS shall obtain approval from the following: (a) California Department of Social Services for the extension, (b) County Counsel as to form, and (c) Auditor-Controller for the

cost analyses. The Director of DPSS, or her designee, will notify the Board within ten business days after execution.

4. Delegate authority to the Director of DPSS, or her designee, to prepare and execute amendments to the contract for: (a) instances which affect the scope of work, term, contract sum, payment terms, or any other term or condition in the contract; (b) additions and/or changes required by the Board or Chief Executive Officer (CEO); (c) changes to be in compliance with applicable County, State, and federal regulations; and (d) increases or decreases of no more than 20 percent of the original contract amount based on the County's service needs and funding availability. DPSS will obtain the approval of County Counsel as to form prior to executing such amendments and submit cost analyses to the Auditor-Controller for approval if warranted. The Director of DPSS, or her designee, shall notify the Board within ten (10) business days of executing such amendments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The recommendations will allow DPSS to provide a safe environment for County employees and residents accessing DPSS facilities by providing Armed and Unarmed Security Guard Services to DPSS locations listed in the attached contract and other facilities as needed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommendations are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan, Goal I, Make Investments that Transform Lives; Goal II, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Strategy II.1: Drive Economic and Workforce development in the County; and Goal III, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, Strategy III.3: Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability, because they enable DPSS to protect persons and property and prevent theft and vandalism at County facilities.

Board Policy 5.015 – Timely Submission of Contracts for Board Approval requires departments to submit contracts for Board approval three (3) weeks preceding the last agenda date at which the Board can act prior to the contract's effective date. Late submission was unavoidable and outside the department's control due to the extended County Protest Process and the effects of COVID-19.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The maximum contract amount for a three-year contract term will be \$12,268,536 for the North and \$21,258,662 for the South Sector. The annual maximum contract costs vary during the contract term and increase each year. The annual maximum cost for the third year will be \$4,221,297 for the North and \$7,314,702 for the South Sector. The cost of this contract will be offset by federal, State, and Net County Cost (NCC). The estimated annual cost for the contract(s) is indicated in Enclosure V.

Funding is included in the DPSS Fiscal Year 2021-2022 final budget and will be included as a continuing appropriation in future fiscal years' budget as necessary.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The contract contains the Board's required contract provisions, including those requiring the consideration of qualified County employees targeted for layoffs and qualified Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) and General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) participants for employment openings; the Jury Service Ordinance; the Safely Surrendered Baby Law; and the Child Support program. The contract provides for termination by the County with a 30-calendar day written notice, should termination be in the County's best interest.

This contract is subject to Proposition A and the Living Wage Program (Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.201). Pursuant to Proposition A, DPSS conducted a cost analysis, a summary of which is included (Enclosure II). DPSS determined that this contract is cost-effective, and the Auditor-Controller has agreed. The proposed contractor is in compliance with all requirements of the Living Wage Program. The contract does not include a cost-of-living adjustment provision.

There will be no impact on other County services or projects. The contract will not infringe on the role of the County in relationship to its residents, and the County's ability to respond to an emergency will not be impaired. There will be no change in risk exposure to the County.

The contractor is in compliance with all Board, CEO, and County Counsel requirements.

The proposed contract provides that the County has no obligation to pay for expenditures incurred beyond the negotiated maximum amounts.

CEO Risk Management Branch has reviewed and approved the provisions relating to insurance and indemnification.

County Counsel and the CEO have reviewed this Board letter, and County Counsel has approved the contract as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On June 23, 2020, DPSS released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Armed and Unarmed Security Guard Services. The RFP was posted on the County's "Doing Business with Us" and "DPSS Contracting Opportunities" websites. DPSS advertised the RFP on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and in the following print publications: Los Angeles Times, La Opinion, Long Beach Press Telegram, Antelope Valley Press,

and San Gabriel Valley Tribune. The social media posts reached approximately 29,515 people and were interacted with approximately 1,140 times.

Representatives from 16 agencies participated in the mandatory Proposer's Conference held on July 9, 2020. After the August 25, 2020 deadline, DPSS submitted eight proposals, four for each Sector, that met the minimum mandatory requirements for evaluation review.

The first part of the evaluation and scoring process was worth a total of 10,000 points. This portion of the evaluation was performed by subject matter experts from DPSS and by eight evaluators from the following County departments: LA County Library; Probation; Beaches and Harbors; Consumer and Business Affairs; and DPSS. Each evaluator was screened for any potential bias or conflict of interest prior to being accepted as an evaluator. Each evaluator attended a training session where they were provided with an overview of the RFP process and an explanation of the evaluation scoring tools and the evaluation methodology prior to reviewing and scoring any proposals. The evaluators were divided into two panels of four and assigned to evaluate all of the proposals for the specific Sector. The evaluators scored the proposals individually and in accordance with County Contracting Guidelines. Each evaluator conducted an independent review of the proposals and then participated in a group discussion. Proposer scores under this portion of this evaluation were developed using the Informed Averaging Methodology, pursuant to Board Policy 5.054, and as described in the Evaluation Methodology for Proposals Implementation Guidelines. The evaluators and the DPSS subject matter experts conducted a comprehensive technical evaluation and analyzed the proposals in detail, after which the proposals were scored and ranked based on the criteria set forth in the RFP.

The second part of the evaluation process was conducted in compliance with the County's Proposition A contracting guidelines. The California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) was contacted to request records for the two highest ranked proposers in each sector regarding any Labor Law/Payroll Violations that may have not been reported in the proposals. The Labor Law/Payroll Violation Assessment Team which consisted of representatives from the Department of Public Works, Internal Services Department, and the Chief Executive Office, determined the severity and extent of any violations and reduced percentage points from the proposers' evaluations scores.

In compliance with Proposition A contracting guidelines, DPSS requested the assistance of the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to review the cost effectiveness of contracting for these services. The A-C reviewed and approved the Proposition A, Cost Analyses (Enclosures I and II), which includes a statement from the A-C indicating that they have reviewed the cost comparison and concurs the contract is cost effective.

DPSS followed all provisions of Board Policy 5.055, Services Contract Solicitation Protest. DPSS conducted debriefings with all non-selected proposers. The proposers

were also given the opportunity to complete the Proposed Contractor Selection Review process and to request a County Independent Review. The Proposed Contractor Selection Reviews were conducted in accordance with Board Policy 5.055. DPSS issued a written decision to the proposers in response to their assertions.

County Independent Reviews were conducted for the North and South Sectors at the request of one proposer. The results of the County Independent Review for the North Sector was sent to the non-selected proposer before DPSS placed the contract recommendation on the Board's agenda. After the conclusion of the County protest process for the North Sector, Allied remains the highest ranked responsive and responsible proposer in both the North and South Sectors.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

This contract will not result in the displacement of any County employees because these services are currently provided by contracted employees which are procured for DPSS by another department.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors is requested to return a stamped and signed copy of the Adopted Board letter and the executed contract to the Director of DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Jiménez
Director

AJ:dp

Enclosures (5)

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



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

BOBBY D. CAGLE
Director

GINGER PRYOR
Chief Deputy Director

June 8, 2021

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

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District
SHEILA KUEHL
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH
THE CHILD CARE ALLIANCE OF LOS ANGELES
FOR EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SERVICES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests your Board's approval of a Sole Source contract with the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) for the coordination of child care services to be provided to young children as part of the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to execute a contract substantially similar to Attachment A, with Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles for the coordination of emergency child care services with eight Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies and three Alternative Placement Program (APP) Agencies, listed in Attachment B. The term of the contract will be effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with three one-year optional extensions, and a six-month extension, if needed to finalize a solicitation. The Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$15,994,100, financed by 96 percent State Bridge funding, and 4 percent net County cost (NCC).
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to execute amendments to: extend the term, increase or decrease the Maximum Contract Sum up to ten percent to align with the state's annual fiscal allocation, to meet programmatic needs, and changes related to terms and conditions to the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program. Approval of County Counsel will be obtained prior to the execution of such amendment, and DCFS will notify the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in writing within 10 business days after execution.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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 after such termination.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The lack of access to childcare is one of the top barriers to finding homes for young foster children and is especially acute for relative caregivers who answer the call to take in a child at short notice. When children are removed from their parents due to abuse and neglect, they are in crisis and need a safe, loving family environment. For the young foster child, high-quality child care is also critical as they are most at-risk for developmental delays, poor academic outcomes, and social-emotional issues that can be mitigated or prevented through effective early care.

Many subsidized child care programs have complicated enrollment processes with short enrollment windows that may not align with the timing of a child's foster care placement. For resource families and relatives who work or go to school, taking in a child and their siblings can put their family in financial jeopardy. The services provided by this contract will allow access to child care for resource families who work and request child care in order to accept new or the continued placements of young children, keeping siblings together. Assisting these resource families with child care will result in placement stability for the child and increased caregiver recruitment and retention. The Bridge Program also enables parenting teens and non-minor dependents to immediately enroll in school or become employed.

Emergency child care is especially needed right now to support resource parents who are essential workers that have DCFS dependent children placed with them. Emergency child care also provides temporary support to working caregivers that must address the additional responsibility of virtual distance learning for school age children. The participating child care providers have taken the opportunity to increase their enrollment in trauma-informed care and utilize coaching services to better serve children impacted by placement and social restrictions set in place to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. CCALA will continue to work with the local R&R Agencies Countywide to: (1) identify and support local child care providers in order to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care; (2) increase capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care; and, (3) maximize funding to support the child care needs of resource families. In addition, CCALA will work with the eight R&R Agencies and three APP Agencies to recruit, train and coach child care providers on caring for young children who have been abused, neglected and/or exposed to trauma and facilitate the child's transition to permanent child care settings.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategy I.1, Increase Our Focus on Prevention Initiatives, Objective I.1.1, Promote Supportive Parenting: Increase the number of vulnerable children and families served-by the County referred to the community-based network of Prevention/Aftercare providers.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Maximum Annual Contract Sum for the contract term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, is anticipated to be \$15,994,100, financed by 96 percent state funding and 4 percent NCC.

Contract extensions will be contingent upon available State Bridge funding. Sufficient funding is in the DCFS FY 2021-22 recommended Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Senate Bill 89 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2017) established the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children, which aims to: (1) increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care; (2) increase capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children; and, (3) maximize existing local, state and federal child care funding to support the child care needs of resource families.

ACL 17-109 requires participating counties to enter into an agreement with local Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies to provide a child care navigator for families receiving a monthly voucher.

The Bridge Program consists of three components: (1) time-limited monthly payments or vouchers for emergency child care services; (2) child care navigator services; and, (3) trauma-informed care training and coaching offered to participating emergency child care providers.

DCFS submitted a Board Notification on June 17, 2020 in compliance with County of Los Angeles Code 5.100 (Sole Source Contracting Policy) and 5.120 (Increases to Board Approved Contracts). DCFS needs to have child care placement options to expedite placements of young children in foster care while also maintaining children within their community of origin.

The Department 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.

The Board letter has been reviewed by County Counsel and CEO. County Counsel has approved the the Contract (Attachment A), as to form. The Sole Source Checklist (Attachment C), has been approved by CEO.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On February 10, 2020, DCFS received approval from the California Department of Social Services (Attachment D) to enter into a sole source contract with CCALA as the principal contractor, who will then enter into subcontracts with each of the eight R&R Agencies and three APP Agencies in Los Angeles County.

DCFS sent a Notice of Intent to negotiate a Sole Source contract with CCALA on June 17, 2020. This contractor is uniquely qualified to comprehensively provide services specified in the program.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

If the recommended actions are not approved, the County will not be able to provide emergency child care services for young children in family-like settings within the community of origin and will contribute to the impact being more dramatic for young children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and removal from their homes.

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 the Board letter and attachments to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Respectfully submitted,



BOBBY D. CAGLE
Director

BDC:GP:CMM
KDR:LTI:CP

Attachments (4)

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