



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mali Dyck**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a renewal Contract with Shona Torgrimson d/b/a Helping Hands Nurturing Center for Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) and Supervised Visitation Services for the Child Welfare Services (CWS) Department in the maximum amount of \$255,000 for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, not to exceed \$127,500 for each fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funding for these services is provided through a grant allocation from the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) Program; CalWORKs Single Allocation funds; Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funds and Department Realignment funds. Services are within the Department's FY 2020/21 budget and there are no county general funds required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND:
The Child Welfare Services (CWS) Division of Nevada County's Department of Social Services is chartered to: investigate reports of child abuse; screen and assess families; provide case management and other services to help families stay together; place and monitor foster children and provide adoption services.

Child Welfare Systems are required to provide Preventative and Early Intervention strategies that not only provide for the safety and permanency for children but also services that target the family's well-being. Child Welfare Services is responsible for ensuring that the critical needs of children and families in the child welfare system are met.

Under this Agreement, the Contractor will continue to provide Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) and Supervised Visitation Services for Child Welfare Services (CWS) families, some of whom will also be receiving CalWORKs benefits.

The Nurturing Parenting Programs are family-centered initiatives designed to build nurturing parenting skills. The long-term goals are to:

- Prevent recidivism in families receiving social services
- Lower the rate of teenage pregnancies
- Reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency and alcohol abuse
- Stop the intergenerational cycle of child abuse by teaching positive parenting behaviors

The Nurturing Parenting Programs target families at risk of abuse and neglect. The programs feature activities to foster positive parenting skills and self-nurturing, home practice exercises, family nurturing time, and activities to promote positive brain development in children from birth to 18 years of age. Lessons can be delivered in an individual setting, group-based setting, or combination of home and group settings. They can also be provided through supervised CWS visitation sessions occurring in the community or at the Contractor's facility.

Per this Agreement, the Contractor will provide Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) services utilizing The Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) curriculum that coordinates health and social services for at-risk families referred by Child Welfare Services. The Contractor will provide supervised supervision/parenting sessions, and/or group services; utilizing the NPP best practices; use strength based and multi-disciplinary approaches; and focus on family stability and self-sufficiency.

In addition, Court-ordered monitored visits will be provided by Certified Monitors for children from birth up to the age of 18. This supervised visitation will occur in a neutral setting that is conducive to quality visits by non-custodial parents who otherwise would not see their children at all, or who may not have been able to be with their children for many months. Safe exchanges between separated parents will be accomplished and children will benefit by being able to visit with their non-custodial parents.

It is recommended that the Board approve this agreement which provides necessary services and supports to families receiving Nurturing Parenting Program services as referred to by Child Welfare Services to improve outcomes for Nevada County children and families.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Mali Dyck, Interim Director of Social Services