

## AGENDA



Thursday, December 13, 2007

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 24**

**Subject:** Approve execution of a 12-month Contract Amendment No. 5 with the CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION, Austin, TX to provide child protection services from January 1-December 31, 2008, adding \$144,104 to the contract amount as allocated by Council for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$261,370 and to authorize inclusion of the the 3.5 percent increase approved for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, as well as an increase of \$144,104 to the contract amount for the each of the three remaining 12-month extension options, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$261,370 for each extension option.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$196,028 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. The term of the contract is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Funding for the balance of this contract is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

**For More Information:** Vince Cobalis, Assistant Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023; Ron Hubbard, Early Childhood Coordinator, 972-5028.

**Prior Council Action:** November 18, 2004 Council approved the original 12-month contract with six extension options. September 12, 2006 Council approved 3.5 percent increases to social services contracts. December 14, 2006 Council approved increases to social services contracts with four remaining extension options. September 10, 2007, Council approved the 2007-2008 Operating Budget including a designation of \$140,000 for the Center for Child Protection and 3.5 percent increases for social services contracts.

**BACKGROUND**

The Center for Child Protection (Center) provides forensic interviews and forensic medical exams for children in a child-centered environment. The interview population includes only children that are scheduled at the Center by police officers and/or Child Protective Services caseworkers. Center staff are available to conduct forensic interviews 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Counseling, case management and court school are also available to children and their families. The Center is also available for use 24 hours a day for all crime victims 17 and under including children who have witnessed a violent crime such as the murder of a parent or sibling. Additionally, referrals from Child Protection Team members for any other Center services are accepted and followed up on by the Center staff. All cases at the Center are managed by a team approach, which includes law enforcement, Child Protective Services, medical services, child advocates, and prosecution. The Center expects a gradual increase in the number of forensic interviews and other services as the Austin Police Department Victim Services Unit refers children over age 12 for interviews that have been done by Victims Services in the past.

On November 18, 2004 Council approved a social services contract for these services, with six extension options, for a total of seven years. On December 14, 2006 Council approved the incorporation of a 3.5 percent increase to the contract. On September 10, 2007, during budget deliberations, Council approved increasing the social service appropriation for Center for Child Protection in the amount of \$140,000, and

approved a 3.5% increase for social service contracts. Council approval of this RCA will incorporate the \$140,000 increase and the 3.5 percent increase that Council included in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department into the contract amendment #5 for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.