



Mendocino County
Department of Social Services
Healthy People, Healthy Communities



Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Memorandum

Division: Family & Children's Services

Contract Info: Third Amendment to BOS Agreement No. 22-182 with Redwood Community Services to provide the State-Mandated Family Urgent Response System (FURS) for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023 -2024.

Amendment Amount: \$129,428, New Agreement Total: \$521,891

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

History:

The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) is a statewide mandated program, originally enacted through Section 107 of Senate Bill 80 (Statute of 2019) and amended by Assembly Bill 79 (Statute of 2020), to support current and former foster youth through age 21 during periods of instability. The program contains three components: 1) state hotline; 2) local mobile response services; and 3) local follow up services for up to 72 hours following a mobile response. FURS is intended to prevent placement disruptions, the need for 911 calls or law enforcement involvement, psychiatric hospitalizations and placements into congregate care, and assist youth and their caregivers in a trauma-informed, family friendly manner to de-escalate and stabilize situations and link the youth and family to ongoing services and resources. The FURS services are required to be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and mobile response services must be provided at any location within Mendocino County within 1 to 3 hours of receiving a call from the state hotline, or same day within 24 hours if a non-urgent response is requested by the caller.

Before the start of the program March 1, 2021, the Family and Children's Services, Juvenile Probation and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services were required to develop a joint plan for implementing the local components of the FURS program effective March 1, 2021 with full implementation by July 1, 2021. A Request for Proposal was issued on April 8, 2021 (RFP No. 018-21) and closed on May 19, 2021 with no responses. As this is a mandated service that the three county departments are unable to staff long-term without adding additional workload to employees who are already very stretched to cover their current mandated job duties, FCS consulted with local providers who are already experienced in working with the FURS-eligible population and who are able to bill Medi-Cal for specialty mental health services for services provided during a mobile response and follow-up that are Medi-Cal eligible: Tapestry Family Services, Redwood Community Services (RCS) and Mendocino County Youth Project. However, due to the county-wide requirement, the only provider interested in meeting the need was RCS. RCS has been available to provide a county-wide FURS mobile response team, 24/7, 365 days a year with follow up services for up to 72 hours following all mobile responses since October 1, 2021.

FCS has provided FURS outreach material to resource parents, foster youth, law enforcement agencies, Foster Family Agencies and Indian Child Welfare Act representatives

to share with caregivers, parents and youth as a resource to access when needed. However, this is an under-utilized service statewide and has been proposed in the Governor's January budget plan for full elimination at the end of this Fiscal Year, June 30, 2024.

Funding: State General Fund, plus Medi-Cal if any eligible specialty mental health services are provided during the mobile response and/or follow up.

Numbers served through this agreement:

The following is data from the California Department of Social Services regarding FURS usage by eligible Mendocino County residents:

2022

Quarter 1: 2 calls to the State Hotline, 0 referrals to mobile response

Quarter 2: 5 calls to the State Hotline, 0 referrals to mobile response

Quarter 3: 4 calls to the State Hotline, 1 referral to mobile response

Quarter 4: 3 calls to the State Hotline, 0 referrals to mobile response

2023

Quarter 1: 7 calls to the State Hotline, 5 referrals to mobile response

Quarter 2: 5 calls to the State Hotline, 2 referrals to mobile response

Quarter 3: 3 calls to the State Hotline, 2 referrals to mobile response

Quarter 4: 0 calls to the State Hotline, 0 referrals to mobile response