



Mendocino County
Department of Social Services
Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Kelsey Rivera, Assistant Director



Memorandum

Date: August 10, 2023

Division: Family & Children's Services

Contract Info: National Training Consultants, September 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Amount: \$224,564

Meeting Date: August 29, 2023

History:

When a minor has been removed from their parent or legal guardian, Family & Children's Services (FCS) must provide reasonable child welfare services to return the minor to their parent or legal guardian. The services are determined by the needs of the minor and family and are included in their juvenile dependency court ordered case plan. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16501(a)(6) specifies: *child welfare services may include, but are not limited to, a range of service-funded activities, including case management, counseling, emergency shelter care, emergency in-home caretakers, temporary in-home caretakers, respite care, therapeutic day services, teaching and demonstrating homemakers, parenting training, substance abuse testing, transportation, and specialized permanency services. These service-funded activities shall be available to children and their families in all phases of the child welfare program in accordance with the child's case plan and departmental regulations.*

The Intake Support Group (ISG) and Family Empowerment Group (FEG) were created by Mendocino County FCS in the late 1990s as a child welfare parent training service to support parents and legal guardians through the juvenile dependency court process and completion of their case plan to help them reunify with their children and/or safely maintain them at home. The proposed agreement provides facilitators for the weekly North County Intake Support Group and up to eight weekly Family Empowerment Groups, which serves FCS clients countywide. The number of weekly Family Empowerment Groups fluctuates over time based on the number of clients required to participate. National Training Consultants (NTC) is the sole contractor the facilitation of Family Empowerment Groups but is one of three Intake Support Group facilitators. Two other individual therapists facilitate Intake Support Groups in Ukiah and Fort Bragg for inland and coastal clients.

Funding:

This contract is covered by Federal, State and Realignment funding.

Numbers served through this agreement:

Between July 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023, NTC spent an average of 137 hours per month facilitating seven FEGs and one ISG, 43 hours a month for weekly group participation documentation and preparation of participant progress reports for court review hearings; and participated with an average of 26 clients a month in their progress or plan development, or Child and Family Team meetings.