

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 12**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS RELATED TO OPERATIONS AT SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

San Pasqual Academy (the Academy) opened in 2001 and is a first-in-the-nation residential education campus designed to meet the unique needs of adolescent youth in the foster care system and to prepare them for self-sufficiency upon exiting care. Over the last five years, federal and State legislation has significantly shifted the statutory requirements for keeping children safely with families, resulting in sweeping legislative changes that identify home-based settings with resource families as the best placement option for youth and reduce the reliance on and use of congregate care. Given these changes, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has undertaken significant consideration of the future of the Academy in the last year. In response to actions taken by the Superior Court of California and the California Department of Social Services, on January 25, 2022 (19), the Board approved continued operations at the Academy, as needed, to support the transition to a continuum of care multipurpose campus to serve youth in foster care and directed the CAO to continue to explore options for a mixed-use campus for a combination of youth populations including youth in foster care, youth at risk of entering foster care, unaccompanied minors, and youth interacting with the juvenile justice system.

The contract extension to operate the Academy authorized by the Board on July 13, 2021 (6) is set to expire on June 30, 2022. Today's action requests the Board to authorize an amendment to the County of San Diego (County), Health and Human Services (HHSA) Child Welfare Services contract with New Alternatives, Inc., to increase the contract amount and extend the contract term for 11 months from May 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 for residential/education services, Independent Living Skills, and the Intergenerational Program. Additionally, today's action requests the Board to authorize an amendment to the HHSA Behavioral Health Services (BHS) contract with New Alternatives, Inc., to extend the contract term for nine months from July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 for the continued provision of specialty mental health services to youth at the Academy. The BHS contract with New Alternatives, Inc. for specialty mental health services is set to expire on June 30, 2022. Both of these contract extensions are necessary to ensure the County provides placement stability and the continuity of specialty mental health services to youth currently placed at the Academy while procuring new services in support of a reimagined campus that extends the successful outcomes of the Academy to a wider population of youth. Additionally, the amendments will allow for new referrals for eligible youth that can immediately benefit from the current programming at the Academy and successfully transition to an appropriate placement type provided at the planned multipurpose campus.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by providing a safe and thriving placement option, comprehensive services and supports, and a focus on improving equitable outcomes for children and youth interacting with the child welfare system.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, to amend the following contracts to increase contract amount and extend the contract term through March 31, 2023 and up to an additional six months, if needed, subject to the availability of funds; and to amend the contracts to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency:
  - a. County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services contract with New Alternatives for residential/education services, Independent Living Skills, and the Intergenerational Program (Contract #45216)
  - b. County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health Services contract with New Alternatives for specialty mental health services (Contract #45369)

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (CWS), partners with public and private agencies such as New Alternatives, Inc., San Diego County Office of Education, and Access Inc. (through the support of the San Diego Workforce Partnership) to maximize racially equitable community outcomes by ensuring all youth at the San Pasqual Academy (the Academy) have increased access to health and wellness opportunities, develop life-long connections, and broaden educational horizons.

Over the last five years, federal and State legislation has significantly shifted the statutory requirements for keeping children safely with families, resulting in sweeping legislative changes that identify home-based settings with resource families as the best placement option for youth and reduce the reliance on and use of congregate care. As a result of these statutory changes focused on keeping children with their families and preventing child maltreatment, CWS has experienced a 39 percent reduction in the number of youth in foster care and a 69 percent reduction in the use of congregate care over the past 10 years. The population of youth placed at the Academy as of April 12, 2022 is 41. The ethnic distribution includes 20 percent White, 46 percent Latino, and 34 percent Black.

As CWS continues to deepen prevention and family strengthening efforts in communities countywide and align with the trajectory of child welfare services nationally, fewer youth are entering the child welfare system. The youth who cannot be safely maintained in their homes with their biological families and enter foster care have often been exposed to severe complex trauma and present with significant mental and behavioral health needs that require more acute and intensive care and interventions. CWS has engaged the community in strategic planning to determine how best to utilize the Academy campus to address the changing needs of our community, as well as the changing statutory framework while building upon the Academy's success.

The Academy reimagined is a cumulative community effort among seven key stakeholder focus groups including former foster youth, partners of the Academy, community partners and the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County, the Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES), relative caregivers and resource families, Foster Family Agencies, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) providers, Transitional Housing

providers, CWS staff, and legal and county partners. The vision of the Academy reimagined is to extend the successful outcomes of the Academy to a wider and diverse population of youth with unique needs by providing increased access to comprehensive services and supports focused on improving equitable outcomes for children and youth interacting with the child welfare system.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-23 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of approximately \$2,225,000 in FY 2021-22 and costs and revenue of approximately \$11,887,500 in FY 2022-23. The funding sources are federal Short-Doyle Medi-Cal, Mental Health Services Act, Realignment, and General Purpose Revenue. There will be no net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter