

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Human Services/Social Services · (209) 966-2000



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-370

MEETING: July 12, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chevon Kothari, Human Services Director

RE: MOU with Court Appointed Special Advocates to Provide Respite Care for Foster Homes

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Mariposa County, a program of the Alliance for Community Transformations, to provide respite care for foster family homes; and authorize the Human Services Director to Sign the MOU.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish terms and conditions under which CASA will provide respite care to families in Mariposa County who are caring for children who have been victims of child abuse. The purpose of this program is to provide resources and support to families caring for these children, such that the families may continue to provide care in a healthy, safe and supported manner. The goal is that child abuse victims will experience more stability and permanency.

There are no financial costs associated with this MOU.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board approved an existing MOU to coordinate efforts with CASA and the Superior Court in serving the abused and neglected children of Mariposa County on March 17, 2015 by Resolution 2015-118.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If this MOU is not approved, the Department will not have an MOU that outlines the provision of respite care for the foster family homes in our community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial costs associated with this MOU.

ATTACHMENTS:

CASA MOU with CWS for Respite Care (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson

Mary Hodson, CAO

7/6/2016

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES
(CASA) OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, A PROGRAM OF THE ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY
TRANSFORMATIONS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTLINING RESPITE CARE
PROVIDED BY CASA OF MARIPOSA COUNTY TO FOSTER FAMILY HOMES IN
MARIPOSA COUNTY**

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Child Welfare Services at Mariposa County's Human Services (CWS), and CASA of Mariposa County (CASA), a program of the Alliance for Community Transformations.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish terms and conditions under which CASA will provide respite care to families in Mariposa County who are caring for children who have been victims of child abuse. The purpose this program is to provide resources and support to families caring for these children, such that the families may continue to provide care in a healthy, safe and supported manner. The goal is that child abuse victims will experience more stability and permanency.

Definitions for the purpose of this MOU

Child abuse victim: Any child or young person under the age of 22 who has been a victim of child abuse, according to the Welfare and Institutions Code section 300, subdivisions (a) through (j).

Respite care: Supportive care provided to families caring for child abuse victims. This care is provided during the day for a set number of hours, on an ongoing basis.

The Parties enter into this MOU and agree on the following terms and conditions:

I. CASA will:

- A. Provide the maximum amount of respite care and services available to families. This will include traveling to the home, facilitating activities with the children or youth, and transporting children out of the home when necessary and able.
- B. Report any suspected or known child abuse. All CASA staff and volunteers are mandated reporters, and receive training on the practices and protocols of mandated reporting.
- C. When other reasonable means of transportation are unavailable, CASA may transport children to needed services and appointments. This includes but is not limited to medical appointments, counseling and other therapeutic services, visitation, and evaluations within Mariposa County and outside of Mariposa County.
- D. Provide CWS with the following information as it relates to the respite care that is provided by CASA staff:
 1. Date, time & location of respite care provided to a family.
 2. Any tangible services or resources that child abuse victims may be in need of.

II. CWS will:


- A. Provide CASA with contact and referral information for families caring for child abuse victims in Mariposa County.
- B. Communicate on an ongoing basis with CASA staff and volunteers regarding shared cases.
- C. Provide CASA with a list of current care providers in Mariposa County.

III. Prioritizing Services

- A. Based on availability, CASA will provide respite care to families caring for child abuse victims in the following order:
 1. Children who have been assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) by the Mariposa County Superior Court.
 2. Children who are dependents of the Mariposa County Superior Court.

3. Children who are child abuse victims residing in Mariposa County but falling under the jurisdiction of another county.
4. Children who are in the process of reunification or involved in Family Maintenance.
5. Any other children who have been victims of child abuse and are involved with child welfare services.

The goal of this program is for children who have been victims of child abuse to have increased stability and healthy outcomes by remaining in a stable and supported home, and having timely access to needed services in and out of county.



CASA of Mariposa County

6/24/10

Date



Human Services Department

6/24/10

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



STEVEN W. DAHLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL