



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001117

MEETING DATE: 05/19/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OC Community Resources

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Dylan Wright, 714-480-2788
Renee Ramirez, 714-480-6483

SUBJECT: Renewal of Dispute Resolution Programs Act Services Contracts

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve agreement to form	DISCUSSION
		3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	Current Year Cost: N/A	Annual Cost: FY 2026-27 \$480,000
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Staffing Impact: No	Funding Source: Fees/Others: Civil Filing	Sole Source: No
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	Fees: 100%	County Audit in Last 3 years: No

Levine Act Review

Completed? Yes

Prior Board Action: 5/20/2025 #53, 5/24/2022 #68

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute Amendment Number Three to the Contract with Waymakers for Dispute Resolutions Programs Act Services, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for a revised cumulative total amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.
2. Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute the Amendment Number Four to the Contract with We Are Groundswell dba Groundswell for Dispute Resolutions Programs Act Services, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for a revised cumulative total amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.
3. Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute future amendments to the Contracts with Waymakers and We Are Groundswell dba Groundswell that are ministerial, non-material, or otherwise administrative in nature, program-specific and consistent with the original scope of work, as determined by the OC Community Resources Director or designee without further Board of Supervisors action; provided all amendments comply with applicable County policies.
4. Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to review and approve subsequent subcontractor requests as necessary, pursuant to Section 3.3-130 of the Contract Policy Manual, without further Board of Supervisors action, provided the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee performs the

required due diligence and establishes that the proposed subcontractor is qualified to perform services under the Contracts, and provided the addition of a subcontractor does not affect the overall scope of work, and the addition of the subcontractor does not increase the Contracts' not to exceed amount.

SUMMARY:

Approval of Contract renewals with Waymakers and We Are Groundswell dba Groundswell for the provision of Dispute Resolution Programs Act services will continue to make mediation and conciliation alternatives available to County residents and offer early intervention problem solving to the community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State of California's Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) of 1986 authorizes counties to set aside a portion of civil filing fees into a special trust fund restricted to the provision of dispute resolution services, primarily mediation and conciliation, to county residents. DRPA funds are used to establish formal and informal community Dispute Resolution Programs. Agencies providing these services with DRPA funds are required to provide a match of 50 percent of in-kind program costs. To fulfill the requirement, on May 25, 1993, the Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized the set-aside of \$8 per initial court filing fee for the purpose of establishing Dispute Resolution Programs.

The Dispute Resolution Program has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient method of resolving various types of conflicts. Conflicts can be immediately handled and defused rather than having the disputants wait the mandatory period of up to six months before an initial civil hearing date is scheduled. The out-of-pocket costs to both the disputants and respondents are minimal and applied on a sliding scale fee basis, as opposed to paying attorney fees and civil filing fees that may include a court filing fee, motion fee and an answer fee.

The DRPA Program in Orange County is primarily based on Court referrals with providers stationed at County Justice Centers. DRPA providers work collaboratively with Court Judges, Commissioners and staff to receive case referrals for mediation. Selected DRPA providers will also provide community and other mediation services throughout the year. Under the current Contracts, Waymakers and We are Groundswell dba Groundswell (Contractors) have been providing DRPA Services. Dispute resolution services are offered in multiple languages. Contractors have been County providers of Services for over 15 years. The table below reflects prior board action for the contractors.

Prior Board Actions

Board Date	Contract or Amendment Number	Term	Maximum Obligation	Board Action
May 24, 2022	Initial Contracts	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025	Aggregate \$1,440,000	Board approved - Contracts with Waymakers, We are Groundswell (Groundswell) and Chapman University.
N/A	First Amendment	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025	Aggregate \$1,488,000	Administratively approved – Increased aggregate maximum obligation to Board approved contingency amount (10%).
N/A	Second Amendment	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025	Aggregate \$1,488,000	Administratively approved – Amended Attachment C-1- Budget for Chapman University and Groundswell Contracts.
May 20, 2025	Second Amendment	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	Aggregate \$1,728,000	Board approved - Contract renewal with Waymakers in the amount of \$240,000.

May 20, 2025	Third Amendment	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	Aggregate \$1,968,000	Board approved – Contract renewal with Groundswell in the amount of \$240,000.
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Performance Outcomes

The DRPA service providers are required to report program activities generated from referrals, and similar metrics will continue to be targeted for future years to achieve the goals and objectives of the program as indicated below.

Contractor	FY 2025-26 Goal	FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date Performance (As of 3/31/26)	FY 2026-27 Proposed Goals
Waymakers			
Intake/ Problem Assessment	1,000	1,018	1,000
Cases Open	750	906	750
Cases Resolved	500	376	500
Public Education Presentations	250	333	250
Groundswell			
Intake/ Problem Assessment	1,400	1,153	1,400
Cases Open	1,200	1,036	1,200
Cases Resolved	450	375	450
Public Education Presentations	130	143	130

OC Community Resources (OCCR) requests Board approval of expenditures for DRPA services under the Contracts with Contractors, for an aggregate total maximum obligation of \$480,000, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This is the final renewal for these Contracts. Prior to Contracts’ expiration, OCCR plans to issue a solicitation to continue services.

OCCR is also requesting delegated authority to execute future amendments to the Contracts with the Contractors that are ministerial, non-material or administrative, program-specific and consistent with the original scope of work as determined by the OCCR Director, or designee, in accordance with applicable County policies for the term of the Contract.

In addition, OCCR requests delegated authority for the County Procurement Officer or a Deputized designee to review and approve future subcontractor requests pursuant to Section 3.3-130 of the Contract Policy Manual, provided the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee performs the required due diligence and establishes that the proposed subcontractor is qualified to perform services under the Contract(s), and provided the addition of a subcontractor does not affect the overall scope of work or increase the Contracts’ not to exceed amounts.

The Contractors’ performance has been deemed satisfactory. OCCR has verified there are no concerns that must be addressed with respect to Contractors’ ownership/name, litigation status or conflicts with County interests. The appropriate due diligence has been conducted and the non-profits have been verified to be in good standing. The Orange County Preference Policy is not applicable to these Contract renewals.

These Contracts, due to the nature of the services, could require the addition of subcontractors. In order to add subcontractor(s) to the Contract(s), the Contractors must receive prior written approval from the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee. If a request to approve a subcontractor would affect the overall scope of work and/or Contract amounts, or otherwise fall outside the scope of the delegated authority, OCCR will bring the item back to the Board for approval. In the past, subcontractors have not been used for these Contracts. See Attachment A for Contract Summary Form.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for these Contracts will be included in the OC Community Resources Budget Control 123 FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget.

The Contracts include provisions that the Contracts are contingent upon the availability of funds and inclusion of sufficient funds in the budget approved by the Board for each fiscal year the Contract remains in effect or operation. In the event such funding is terminated or reduced, the County may terminate the Contracts, reduce the County's maximum obligation or modify the Contract with 10 days' notice, without penalty.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Contract Summary Forms

Attachment B - Amendment No. Three to Contract No. MA-012-22010585 with Waymakers

Attachment C - Amendment No. Four to Contract No. MA-012-22011318 with Groundswell