

STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** May 27, 2025

**CATEGORY:** Consent Calendar 8

**SUBJECT:** Approve a renewal agreement with J. Reid McKellar, Ph.D., for individual psychological evaluations, adoption psychological evaluations, parent/child bonding assessments, sibling assessments and court services.

**DEPARTMENT:** Health and Human Services Agency-Behavioral Health and Social Services

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #:** All

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** Bailey Cogger, HHSA Deputy Branch Director - Behavioral Health and Social Services, (530) 229-5900

**STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY:** Cindy Lane, MSW, HHSA Branch Director - Behavioral Health and Social Services

<b><u>Vote Required?</u></b> Simple Majority Vote	<b><u>General Fund Impact?</u></b> No General Fund Impact
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**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve a renewal agreement with J. Reid McKellar, Ph.D., in an amount not to exceed \$115,000, to provide individual psychological evaluations, adoption psychological evaluations, parent/child bonding assessments, sibling assessments and court services, for three years beginning the last date it is signed by both parties.

**DISCUSSION**

J. Reid McKellar, PH.D., (Dr. McKellar) provides Individual Psychological Evaluations, Adoption Psychological Evaluations, Parent/Child Bonding Assessments and Sibling Assessments for youth and parents as ordered by the juvenile dependency court.

Under the terms of this agreement, Dr. McKellar, a licensed psychologist, will administer psychological tests, conduct structured interviews, and review available records and documentation in order to evaluate for the presence of psychological disorders or personality characteristics that may have an impact upon an individual's behavior, with respect to his/her parenting skills.

Dr. McKellar also will conduct Parent/Child Bonding Assessments to determine the nature and quality of the child's relationship with birth and/or foster parents, often to address the question of who occupies the position of greatest centrality for the child's wellbeing. This is roughly equivalent to determining which adult(s) serve as the psychological parent to the child.

Additionally, Dr. McKellar has agreed to provide case consultation on complex cases to identified Health and Human Services Agency - Children's Services Branch staff.

Children's Services has previously contracted with Dr. McKellar and was satisfied with the thorough and timely reports provided by Dr. McKellar. Dr. McKellar has a history of providing high quality work in a timely manner and is highly regarded by the juvenile court and by Children's Services.

The proposed agreement includes language to allow the HHSA Director, or their designee, to approve changes in any of Consultant's rates up to a maximum of 10 percent (10%) with prior written approval, provided the maximum amount of compensation per County fiscal year of these agreements are not exceeded.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Board may choose not to approve the recommendation or provide alternative direction to staff. Not approving is not recommended since there are limited Consultants locally to provide these services.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form. Risk Management has approved the agreement. The Recommendation has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

These services are funded through the Child Welfare Services Budget (BU 501), which requires a County-share of cost met largely through Realignment. These appropriations and expenditures are included in the department's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget. Appropriations will be included in future year budget requests.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1: McKellar Agreement