

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administrative Services

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Graham Knaus, Director of Administrative Services

DATE: June 8, 2010

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Trust Fund Disbursements through PEACE for Families and Tahoe Women's Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve agreements with PEACE for Families in the amount of \$59,000 and Tahoe Women's Services in the amount of \$25,000 to provide domestic violence counseling, shelter, and support services from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the resulting contracts and subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the original contract amount. These contracts are 100 percent funded through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund. No County General Fund match is required. These costs are included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget.

BACKGROUND:

California Government Code requires the County Clerk to collect a \$23 fee at the time of issuance of a marriage license to be deposited into a Domestic Violence Trust Fund for distribution to eligible domestic violence programs within the county. These funds must be used solely to provide basic domestic violence prevention and treatment services as defined in the California Welfare and Institutions Code.

Within Placer County, two organizations are currently eligible to receive this funding. Tahoe Women's Services provides services within the Tahoe area, while PEACE for Families serves the remainder of the County. Services eligible to be provided with this funding include: 24-hour, 7-days-per-week shelter services; 24-hour, 7-days-per-week crisis hotline; temporary housing and food facilities; psychological support and peer counseling; referrals to community services and appropriate follow-up; emergency transportation to the shelter, including law enforcement assistance if needed; and arrangements for school-age children to continue their education while staying at the shelter. Of the \$23 fee, \$4 is to be used, to the extent feasible, to develop or expand domestic violence centers to target underserved areas and populations.

Both organizations provide effective and necessary domestic violence prevention and treatment. During 2009, PEACE for Families received requests for shelter services from 577 individuals, while Tahoe Women's Services received 10 such requests. Psychological support and peer counseling were provided to 127 adults and children through Tahoe Women's Services, and to 438 through PEACE for Families. The population benefiting from these critical services includes clients served by Health and Human Services.

Domestic Violence Trust Fund disbursements for FY 2010-11 will total \$84,000, an increase of \$32,925 (64.5 percent) over the prior year, and are comprised of fees collected on marriage licenses issued in Placer County. As required by State Codes, these fees must be passed through to eligible domestic violence programs within the County. Based on historical distribution, 70 percent of the fund is directed to PEACE for Families, and 30 percent is directed to Tahoe Women's Services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These costs are included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget. No County General Fund is required.

These contracts are on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

