

**MEMORANDUM**  
**PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Children's System of Care**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.  
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services  
Richard S. Knecht, Director of Children's System of Care

**DATE:** January 24, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Sierra Forever Families to Provide Behavioral Health Services to Adoptive Children

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the selection of Sierra Forever Families as recommended as a result of Request for Proposals No. 12-02 to provide specialized behavioral health services to adoptive children and their families, approve a contract in the amount of \$278,000 to provide services from February 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments up to 10% of the total amount.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Children's System of Care has, with the help and support of court partners, successfully placed an average of 45 foster children into permanent adoptive homes per year since 2000. Current research confirms that post-adoption services are effective in assisting children as they adjust to changes and begin to thrive in their new adoptive families. These new post-adoption services would be the first of their kind in Placer County and are designed to assist with maintaining and increasing this successful number of permanent adoptions.

These new services, funded by State and Federal mental health dollars, will provide evidence-based therapies and support services and are specifically designed to assist both children and families as they heal from past traumas and begin to develop trust as they enjoy stability and consistency. Armed with these extended services, families will be far better positioned to make the long term commitment to adoption, assuring a truly permanent family setting for these youth.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on August 17, 2011 for a program to deliver the services described above. The RFP evaluation panel consisted of representatives from the Placer County HHS and Probation Departments, Nevada County HHS, and a local non-profit youth services provider. Of the three proposals that were received, Sierra Forever Families received the highest ranking from the evaluation panel. Proposals were also submitted by EMQ FamiliesFirst and Remi Vista, Inc. The Sierra Forever Families proposal was selected based on their evidence-based practices in trauma focused care and extensive experience with the trust and stability issues with these children and families, as they offer similar programs in Sacramento and Nevada Counties.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This contract is funded through \$278,000 in Federal and State funding and no County General Funds are required. The Department has included sufficient Operating Expenditures in its FY 2011-12 Final Budget for year one of the contract, so no budget amendment will be required. The remaining year two expenditures will be included in the Department's FY 2012-13 Base Budget.

A copy of this contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

