

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: June 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Contracts with Unity Care Group for Mandated Independent Living Skills Services and Whole Person Learning to Provide Transitional Housing, Youth Mentoring, and Supportive Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to take the following actions:

- a. Approve a contract with Unity Care Group from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 for Federal/State mandated Independent Living Skills services for eligible Placer County youth ages 16-21 in an amount not to exceed \$404,992.
- b. Approve a contract with Whole Person Learning, Inc. from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$594,978 for Traditional Housing Placement-Plus Program services to deliver housing and supportive services to emancipating foster youth transitioning to adulthood.
- c. Approve a contract with Whole Person Learning from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$356,101 to provide youth mentors, web-based health and education records storage, and youth rights information.
- d. Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the contracts and any subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the individual contract amounts.

BACKGROUND:

Through successful community partnerships, the Children's System of Care (CSOC) provides an array of mandated educational and supportive services to youth who are involved in, or transitioning out of, the foster care system. These services allow foster youth turning 18 to more quickly adapt to independence and thereby prevent homelessness, substance abuse, incarceration, and otherwise reduce the need for public services. Together, these three agreements continue this approach which allows Placer County to consistently be in the top 10% of county foster care outcomes for High School graduation, employment, and living in non-subsidized housing.

The two-year contract with Unity Care Group will deliver life skills training, educational and vocational/career preparation, personal budgeting, and other independent living supports to 240 foster youth. Seventy percent of those participating last year were enrolled in community college or trade schools, compared to a statewide average of 55%.

The one-year Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Program contract with Whole Person Learning provides housing and a host of community supports to more than 35 emancipating foster youth, including career planning, employment skill development, and personal budgeting. Nearly 70% of these State dollars pay for direct housing costs, while the remainder funds case management and program administration costs.

The Whole Person Learning youth mentor services agreement offers evidence-based peer mentoring, and educational and workforce training and supports for youth in foster care. Among the uniquely value-adding components of this service is production and publishing of a nationally celebrated Youth Rights Brochure and implementation of a web-based records storage tool, which allows older foster youth to independently manage their health and education histories in preparation for adulthood. Last year, Whole Person Learning provided direct services and training to more than 300 youth.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total expenditures of \$1,356,071 represent a slight increase from the previous contract total of \$1,310,644. \$972,340 is included in the Department's FY 2012-13 Requested Budget and \$383,731 will be included in the Department's FY2013-14 Requested Budget. These contracts are funded entirely by Federal and State funds and no County General Funds are required.

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