

**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 19, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California to Provide Family Advocacy Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve an agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California in an amount not to exceed \$674,000 from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to provide youth and family advocacy services, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$49,999, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and Scope of Work.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1996, Placer County Health and Human Services has had unique statutory authority to operate a blended services pilot (the Placer model). The pilot provides significant programmatic and funding flexibility to leverage Federal and State funding while implementing innovative approaches to health and human services. As part of the State and nationally recognized pilot, the Department provides family-centered, community-based services to meet State requirements for child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice. In doing so, the Department can more flexibly use Federal and State dollars, creating a more cost effective and efficient system of care focused on outcomes for families.

One of the State requirements in child welfare and mental health services is to provide family and youth partnership and support services (Family Advocacy Program). Specifically, parents of former youth in the Children's System of Care, or adults who were previously served by the mental health system, provide support to families receiving probation, mental health and child welfare services. The blended services pilot allows the Department to leverage Federal and State funds to meet this State requirement while increasing access to critically needed services for Placer County families. This approach is supported by the System Management Advocacy and Resource Team (SMART) policy board.

Last year, the 10-person Family Advocacy Program team served nearly 900 persons in the Adult and Children's Systems of Care. Since 2004, these services have assisted more than 6,000 Placer County families to be successful in the Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Education systems by shortening court proceedings and reducing grievances. Additionally, the presence of parent advocates in Child Welfare contributes to reduced re-entry into foster care.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This agreement totaling \$674,000 is included in the Department's FY 2012-13 Proposed Budget. This contract is funded with \$654,000 (97%) in State funding and \$20,000 (3%) in required County General Fund match.

This contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

