

**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
C.B. Bautista, Director of Children's System of Care

DATE: June 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Declaration of Commitment to Permanence for Older Foster Youth

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the declaration of commitment to permanence for older foster youth and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign and submit the declaration to the California Permanency for Youth Project.

BACKGROUND:

The *Declaration of Commitment to Permanence for Older Foster Youth* is sponsored by the California Permanency for Youth Project (CPYP) and its Youth Permanency Task Force. It is the result of a concerted and collaborative effort to engage public and private agencies to build support for foster youth permanence. By endorsing this Declaration, Placer County publicly acknowledges its commitment to policies and programs that lead to permanent connections for foster youth, while raising attention to this important issue for policy makers and our local community.

Over the years, Placer County has become very successful in promoting the individual success of children who are graduating from foster care. Approximately 92% of our foster children complete high school, 88% are employed, and over 98% have housing upon leaving foster care.

However, success as an adult depends upon resiliency or ability to handle problems, and a key variable to that resiliency is a lifelong relationship with a supportive adult. Most young adults have a lasting relationship either with a parent or grandparent who they can depend upon for guidance and support. Unfortunately, many foster care youth leave placement without parents or grandparents, having no lasting adult relationships in their lives and having no one to turn to for help or support once they leave the foster care system.

This year, CSOC began a permanency program through a contract with Sierra Adoptions. The program, Destination Family, is currently working with five (5) children, helping them make permanent, life-long connections. It is projected that the program will serve an additional 12 children for FY06-07.

At its regularly schedule meeting on March 29, 2006, the S.M.A.R.T. Policy Board voted to request the support of the Board of Supervisors for the *Declaration of Commitment to Permanence for Older Foster Youth*.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

The following agreement for:

Declaration of Commitment to
Permanence for older foster youth

is on file with the Clerk of the Board
for BOS meeting:

June 13, 2006