

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, M.S., Director of Children's System of Care

DATE: July ²¹~~22~~, 2008

SUBJECT: Contract with United Advocates for Children and Families for state- and federally-funded advocacy and support services.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract with United Advocates for Children and Families to provide required advocacy and support services for youth and families for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$1,062,885, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$50,000. There are no County General Funds associated with this contract, and the costs are reflected in the Department's 2008/09 Proposed Base Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Since November 2005, Systems of Care programs, as affirmed by SMART policy board, have been engaged in a multi-year strategy using federal dollars to increase access to services for underserved families. The goals of this grant include, among others, increasing consumer involvement in delivering services that are meaningful and effective, reducing dependence on County-operated services, and increasing accessibility for Latino, Native American, and transition-age youth populations (ages 16-25).

Under this contract, United Advocates for Children and Families employs parents and youth who themselves have been recipients of service and are now self sufficient and able to help others. These contracted former consumers provided direct support, mentoring, information dissemination and advocacy services to more than 650 families in the Systems of Care last year. These services have effectively assisted families to navigate the Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Mental Health and Education systems, markedly improving services by speeding client engagement, shortening court proceedings, and reducing adverse outcomes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this contract is included in the Adult and Children's Systems of Care FY2008-09 proposed base budget. The funding consists of \$1,062,885 of federal and State monies and represents a decrease of \$51,476 (4.6%) from the prior year. No County General Fund contribution is required.

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

