

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, Children's System of Care

DATE: December 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Placer County Child Welfare and Probation Self-Assessment

ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and approve the State-mandated Placer County Child Welfare and Probation "Self-Assessment", and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to submit the assessment to the California Department of Social Services.

BACKGROUND:

As part of Children's System of Care (CSOC) ongoing quality improvement measures, CSOC has recently completed a thorough "Self-Assessment" of Placer County child welfare and youth probation services. Nearly a dozen community partners and consumers, including representatives from KidsFirst, Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center, Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee, and others, participated in this tri-annual review.

This process confirmed that Placer County Child Welfare and Probation professionals are:

- 1) Timely and thorough in response to reports of suspected neglect or abuse;
- 2) Effective in preventing unnecessary re-entry into Foster Care;
- 3) Comprehensive in providing crucial supports that enable more families to adopt and bring permanency and stability to foster youth.

Most noteworthy accomplishments include:

- 1) 20% reduction in the average census at the Juvenile Detention Facility in the last 12 months;
- 2) 25% reduction in children needing to be removed from their homes since 2006;
- 3) 30% reduction in children needing to be placed in group homes because of the severity of their behavioral challenges since 2006.

These remarkable successes are in part, the direct result of the collaborative approaches used by Placer County Child Welfare and Probation staff in assisting the children and families that require our services.

The innovative family-oriented services result in youth and families being able to successfully address their challenges in the context of the wealth of supportive resources within the community and move quickly to greater long term self-sufficiency and healing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to this request.

The Placer County Self-Assessment is on file with Clerk of the Board for review.

