

**MEMORANDUM  
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Adult 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  
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

**DATE:** April 27, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Establish Umbrella Contract for Hearing Officer Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve a maximum payment authorization ("umbrella contract") in a not-to-exceed amount of \$27,500 for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012, to provide certification and capacity hearing services at the Cirby Hills Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) by Gail Schulze, David J. Bills, and Donald T. Thommen; and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign individual contracts, to add any new, qualified contractors, and authorize amendments as needed. The maximum contract amount is 44 percent higher than the prior year due to adding additional certification hearings and greater utilization of these services. Funding of \$13,750 for FY 2010-11 includes \$9,625 Federal and State funds, and \$4,125 required County General Fund match. These expenditures are included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget and will also be budgeted in the FY 2011-12 Base Budget for the remainder of the contract term.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Adult System of Care provides State-mandated crisis assessments to 2,000 persons per year and subsequent hospitalization to about half of these persons. Persons hospitalized are those assessed as being a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled due to a mental illness. Initial hospitalization is for a period of 72 hours. State mandates require review hearings for persons who dispute the involuntary hospitalization or are determined to need involuntary medication. Additionally on March 24, 2009, the Board approved Resolution #2009-74 authorizing an additional 14-day placement which also requires a review hearing. This requested action is for the provision of hearing officer services to provide the administrative necessity and legal requirement of due process to conduct these hearings.

Gail Schulze, David J. Bills, and Donald T. Thommen operate as independent contractors appointed by the court as hearing officers. During the last eight months 168 hearings have been conducted. These contractors have been providing satisfactory services as hearing officers to Placer County for the past nine years.

The umbrella contract option is well suited for these services and allows the Department to maximize services between contractors and respond to increased service needs. The proposed contract amount is 44 percent higher than the prior year to meet demand for increased services. The number of admissions is projected to increase by 30 percent and the new 14-day policy requires an additional hearing. The increase in hearing costs as a result of the new policy are more than offset by the reduction in long-term placements.

The hearing officers are compensated at \$60 per hearing, \$55 for same-day consecutive hearings, and reimbursed for mileage at the standard IRS rate.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for FY 2010-11 includes \$9,625 Federal and State funds, and \$4,125 required County General Fund match. FY 2010-11 costs are included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget.

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

