

**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, Children's System of Care

DATE: October 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Amended State Foster Care Licensing Memorandum of Understanding

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to take the following actions:

- a. Approve an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Social Services for the purposes of establishing Placer County as the entity responsible for performing licensing functions with respect to Foster Family Homes within the geographic area of the County.
- b. Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the Contractor Certification Clause.
- c. Approve a Resolution authorizing the Director of Health and Human Services to enter into and sign this amended Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND:

Placer County is mandated to provide licensing and oversight to Foster Family Homes. To do so, the California Department of Social Services requires MOU to outline the respective roles of the State and County. The original MOU was signed in 1995, and the State has recently requested counties reaffirm and amend these agreements to incorporate additional background check requirements.

Placer County currently has 75 foster homes available or pending licensure. These caring and supportive adults, who have completed mandated training and orientation, provide short and long term foster care to an estimated 125 children, who have been removed from the care of their parents or caregivers as a result of abuse or neglect.

Required licensing activities include recruitment, screening, training and orientation, and ongoing evaluation of foster parents. It also includes regular assessments of the safety of the homes to ensure foster children reside in a safe and stable environment. The availability of licensed foster parents is an integral component of the continued success of the Placer County blended services model. This model has resulted in a 25 percent reduction in out of home placements since 2006 and has reduced the number of out of county placements by 20 percent.

The County receives \$86,000 in Federal and State funds, and contributes \$22,000 in required County General Fund match, to meet these mandated foster care licensing requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action. This MOU is on file with Clerk of the Board for review.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

**Amended Agreement establishing Placer
County to perform Foster Care Licensing
functions for the California Department of
Social Services**

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____ by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, the California Department of Social Services requests that counties enter into agreements for the purposes of establishing counties as the entity responsible for performing foster care licensing functions of the State with respect to Foster Family Homes which are located within the geographic area of the County; and

WHEREAS, children in Placer County are sometimes abused or neglected by their parents or guardians and require foster care; and

WHEREAS, as of September 1, 2010 Placer County has 75 foster homes available or pending licensure, providing an opportunity for 125 children to receive care from providers who have been carefully evaluated and trained; and

WHEREAS, Placer County believes that providing foster care licensing, training and support functions at a local level best serve its children and families; and

WHEREAS Placer County has provided licensing of Placer County foster homes under this agreement for the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS the California Department of Social Services now desires to reaffirm and amend this agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Placer County hereby authorizes the Director of Health and Human Services to enter into and sign the amended Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Social Services for provision of foster care licensing functions pursuant to Section 1511 of the California Health and Safety Code.