

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: January 11, 2011

SUBJECT: Approval of Family Advocacy Program and Youth Empowerment Support Program Contracts

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to take the following actions regarding award of contracts as a result of a Request for Proposals for mandated advocacy and support services for youth and families:

- a. Approve award of the Family Advocacy Program to Mental Health America of Northern California in an amount not to exceed \$965,970 from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; and
- b. Approve award of the Youth Empowerment Support Program to Whole Person Learning, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$235,893 from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; and
- c. Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the total contract amount or \$49,999, whichever is less.
- d. Approve an amendment to Contract CN012880 with the incumbent provider, United Advocates for Children and Families, increasing the amount by \$45,337 for a revised total amount of \$505,940 and extending the term of the contract by one month, through January 31, 2011, to allow for uninterrupted transition of these services.

These contracts are fully funded with Federal and State funds with \$446,000 included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Budget, and \$804,000 to be included in the FY 2011-12 Base Budget. No County General Fund match is required. This amount is unchanged from the prior fiscal year.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1996, Placer County Health and Human Services (the Department) has had unique statutory authority to operate a blended services pilot. The pilot provides significant programmatic and funding flexibility to leverage Federal and State funding while implementing innovative approaches to health and human services. As part of the State and nationally recognized pilot, the Department provides family-centered, community based services to meet State requirements for child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice. In doing so, the Department can more flexibly use Federal and State dollars, creating a more cost effective and efficient system of care focused on outcomes for families.

One of the State requirements in child welfare and mental health services is to provide family and youth partnership services (Family Advocacy Program). Specifically, parents of former foster youth provide support to families receiving intensive community based children's services including probation and child welfare. The blended services pilot allows the Department to leverage Federal and State only dollars to meet the requirement while increasing access to critically needed services to Placer County families. This approach is supported by the System Management Advocacy and Resource Team (SMART) policy board and last year 725 persons in the Adult and Children's Systems of Care received these family and youth partnership services. Since 2004, the services have assisted more than 4,000 Placer County families to be successful in the Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Education systems, by shortening court proceedings, reducing grievances, and reducing re-entry to care.

Under these contracts, families and youth will receive mentoring, coaching, and other support services. Mental Health America of Northern California and Whole Person Learning will employ parents and youth with experience as recipients of County programs and services, and who are now self-sufficient and able to help others engage and navigate County and community services.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on October 7, 2010 for a program to deliver the services described above. The RFP evaluation panel consisted of representatives from the Placer County HHS and Probation Departments, and a local community advocate. Of the three proposals that were received, Mental Health America of Northern California received the highest ranking from the evaluation panel for the Family Advocacy Program, and Whole Person Learning received the highest ranking for the Youth Empowerment Support Program. One additional proposal was also submitted by United Advocates for Children and Families. The successful agencies both demonstrated a depth of experience and expertise which will allow Placer County's Youth and Family Advocacy teams to increase effectiveness in reaching this vulnerable service constituency.

The one-month contract extension with the incumbent provider, United Advocates for Children and Families, will ensure a seamless continuation of services to current Systems of Care clients while the new providers that were selected as the result of a recent Request for Proposals assume these program responsibilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These contracts are fully funded with Federal and State funds with \$446,000 included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Budget, and \$804,000 to be included in the FY 2011-12 Base Budget. No County General Fund match is required. The budgeted amounts for these services are unchanged from the prior fiscal year.

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