

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Children's System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Richard S. Knecht, Director of Children's System of Care

DATE: June 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California to Provide Family Advocacy Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve an agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California in an amount not to exceed \$1,204,710 (no net County cost) from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016 to provide youth and family advocacy services, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$49,999, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1996, Placer County Health and Human Services has had unique statutory authority to operate a blended services model (the Placer model). This State and nationally recognized approach provides significant programmatic and funding flexibility to leverage Federal and State monies, while implementing a uniquely family-centered, community-based service 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 and support services (Family Advocacy Program). Specifically, parents of former youth in the Children's System of Care provide paraprofessional supports to families receiving probation, mental health and child welfare services. This approach is supported by the System Management Advocacy and Resource Team (SMART) policy board, including judges and the Probation Department.

Mental Health America of Northern California, Inc. is a well-established regional provider of these services, and is a leader in developing unique and flexible consumer lead interventions and supports. Last year, the nine-person Family Advocacy team served 250 families in the Children's Systems of Care. Since 2004, these services have assisted 2,000 Placer County families, which resulted in shortened court proceedings, reduced re-entry into foster care, and fewer grievances.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Half of the total \$1,204,710 expenditures are included in the Department's FY 2014-15 Requested Budget and half will be included in the Department's FY 2015-16 Requested Budget. This contract is funded by State revenues and no County General Funds are required.

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

