

**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 of Children's System of Care

**DATE:** June 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Contract for Legal Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve an agreement with James R. Yeo, Esq. from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to provide legal services for appeals in child protective services cases, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement and subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the original amount.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Children's System of Care is mandated to deliver protective services to minors at risk of abuse or neglect in Placer County. In the course of this mandate, it is sometimes necessary to file legal actions against parents or other caregivers relative to their rights. Of an estimated 190 court cases pertaining to parental rights filed annually in Placer County, a limited number of cases (less than 5 percent) result in the court's decision being appealed by the parent/caregiver.

James Yeo provides specialized legal services to the Children's System of Care, in cases involving appeals of Child Welfare decisions. These services include consultation, research, preparation, discovery, motions and court appearances. Mr. Yeo possesses specific knowledge and skills relative to this unique area of the law including the specific timelines, documents, and relevant legal history necessary to be successful in these often contentious cases, allowing assigned County Counsel to more effectively use their expertise in other court cases. County Counsel is fully supportive of this approach.

The rate of compensation for these services has been unchanged since 1999. This agreement is for the purchase of professional services and may be exempt from competitive solicitation in accordance with Purchasing Policy Section 1.3(a).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Total expenditures of \$40,000 include \$32,000 (80%) in Federal and State funds, and \$8,000 (20%) in County General Funds. Funding of \$20,000 is included in the Department's FY 2011-12 Proposed Budget, and \$20,000 will be included in the Department's FY 2012-13 Base Budget.

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

