

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 16, 2015

SUBJECT: Contract for Legal Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve a contract with James R. Yeo, Esq. to provide legal services for appeals in child protective services cases, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 (\$3,000 net County cost), for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the resulting contract.

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 330 court cases pertaining to child abuse and neglect filed annually in Placer County, a limited number of cases (less than 3 percent) result in the court's decision being appealed.

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 is exempt from competitive solicitation in accordance with Purchasing Policy Section 1.3(a).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the contract is provided by Child Welfare Services, which includes Federal funds and State Realignment in the amount of \$17,000 and County General Funds of \$3,000. This expenditure is included in the Department's FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget.

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

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