

**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 of Children's System of Care

DATE: July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Contract with United Advocates for Children and Families for State- and Federally-funded advocacy and support services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract with United Advocates for Children and Families to provide required advocacy and support services for youth and families from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$951,951, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$49,999. These services are fully funded with Federal and State funds. No County General Funds are required. These costs are included in the Department's FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget.

BACKGROUND:

Since November 2005, the Children's System of Care has been engaged in a multi-year strategy using Federal dollars to increase access to services for underserved families. The goals of this grant include, among others, increasing consumer involvement in delivering services that are meaningful and effective, reducing dependence on County-operated services, and increasing accessibility for Latino, Native American, and transition-age youth (ages 16-25) populations.

Under this contract, United Advocates for Children and Families employs parents and youth who themselves have been recipients of service and are now self-sufficient and able to help others. These contracted former consumers provided direct support, mentoring, information dissemination, and advocacy services to more than 650 families in the Systems of Care last year. These services have effectively assisted families to navigate the Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Education systems, markedly improving services by speeding client engagement, shortening court proceedings, and reducing adverse outcomes. The local impact of this service is a cost savings of nearly \$1.2 million. This specific service accounts for approximately 25 percent of the overall support in State and Federal dollars used to serve children and families in this service sector, allowing the remaining dollars to fund direct client services including therapy, case management, crisis response, and other family supports.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures under this contract will not exceed \$951,951. This amount represents a decrease of \$111,000 (11.7 percent) over last year's contract, due to reduced Federal allocations in this area. The funding for these contracts includes \$157,000 in Federal dollars and \$795,000 in State allocations. No County General Funds are required. These expenditures are included in the Department's FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget.

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

