

**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  
C.B. Bautista, Director, Children's System of Care

**DATE:** August 22, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Agreements to Provide Mentoring Services to Youth

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve agreements with Wonder, Inc. and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Sacramento to provide mentoring services to Placer County youth for FY2006-07 for a total amount of \$40,000 (\$20,000 each contract), and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign these agreements.

**BACKGROUND:**

Mentoring relationships are designed to match an adult or older teen with a child to provide a positive role model and relationship experience; especially for children of an absentee parent and children in foster care, who need the additional support due to the child's separation from his or her parents.

A long-term study of mentoring done in conjunction with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in 1995 showed that mentoring has significant positive effects on children's lives. The study involved over 1,000 children and found that weekly meetings with a mentor for a year cut school absenteeism by half, improved parental and peer relationships, reduced first-time drug use by almost half and first-time alcohol use by a third, and gave the youth confidence to participate more in school.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters provides mentoring support to children, 7-15 years, who are primarily from single parent families. During the first year of operation, they will serve between 30-40 Placer County youth.

Wonder, Inc. will provide a more intensive mentoring support to children, 6-12 years, who have been placed in foster care. During the first year of operation, they will serve 10 Placer County youth. Wonder, Inc., will also provide "coaches" or independent contractors with clinical training and experience in social work, counseling, special education, and coaching to help ensure a positive mentoring experience for Placer's more at-risk youth.

In FY2006-07, both Wonder, Inc., and Big Brothers/Big Sisters will provide mentoring services in the South and Western Placer County areas of Rocklin, Roseville, Granite Bay, and Lincoln. Additional non-County revenues generated by each provider will be used for the expansion of the program to other geographic areas of Placer County in subsequent years. Services will also include recruitment and training of mentors, matching mentors and children, and ongoing support services to ensure continued success of the mentoring relationships.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for these services is a combination of State Child Welfare Services (CWS), Realignment, and County General Fund, and is contained in the FY06-07 Proposed Budget.

**To: Clerk of the Board**  
**From: HHS Administration**

Please keep this contract on file:

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater  
Sacramento**

For BOS meeting:

**August 22, 2006**