

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, Children's System of Care

DATE: February 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Community Grant Making for Mental Health Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve contract amendment CN005087-B for the Placer Community Foundation, increasing the total funding by \$50,000 for a new total of \$437,724 to conduct community grant making activities including awarding and administering mental health grants from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the amendment and subsequent amendments not to exceed 10% of the total contract amount.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2006, Placer County's Adult and Children's systems of care have effectively utilized State mental health funds to improve the lives of more than 7,000 residents each year. A critical outcome for these individuals is their increased connection to their natural community supports, resulting in less reliance on County staff and services. In addition, outcomes data shows a 94% reduction in homelessness, 57% reduction in stays in locked psychiatric facilities, 61% reduction in acute psychiatric stays, and 31% increase in independent living.

Placer County's System of Care continues to utilize State mental health funds to build upon the County's nationally known blended services model to develop a shared partnership with community non-profit and private partners. A coalition of community agencies including the Office of Education, local community non-profit organizations, and the Probation Department has effectively used a community grant making process as the next best step in creating a consumer- and family-driven service model. The State Dept. of Mental Health has approved this plan, and concurs that this strategy is the most culturally appropriate method for use of these dollars.

In the previous community grant program, 23 of 41 applicants were funded. By way of example, two of these services included *The Soldiers Project* and *A Touch of Understanding*. *The Soldier's Project* has provided peer mentors for more than 15 returning veterans and their families to assist in the re-integration back into everyday life, and provided information and resource cards to Placer County's first responders to better assist veterans in times of crisis. *A Touch of Understanding* engaged over 100 young people with disabilities or their families in planning and participating in monthly activities in a safe and accepting environment.

This amendment will provide additional small grants of \$500 to \$10,000 each to grassroots organizations that already have existing support and service relationships with vulnerable County residents. This funding will build new innovative service models within Placer County's community partnerships, and will enhance the existing service methods utilized by our faith-based and other community-driven partners for more than 2,500 residents. These new grants will continue to facilitate the transition to a more sustainable and dependable service model that is built on community capacity, supports independence for Placer County youth and families, and reduces the need for publicly-funded services.

Placer Community Foundation will retain up to 15% of these dollars for administrative costs associated with this process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department's FY 2011-12 Final Budget included sufficient Operating Expenditures for this contract increase of \$50,000 and no Budget Revision is needed. The increase to this contract is fully funded by State Mental Health funding and no County General fund is required.

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