TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
SUBJECT: Agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California to Provide Family Advocacy Services.

ACTION REQUESTED
1. Approve an agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California for FY 2016-17 through FY 2017-18 to provide youth and family advocacy services in the total amount not to exceed $1,374,490 (no net County Cost) and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments up to ten percent of the total contract amount, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND
Since 1996, Placer County Health and Human Services has had unique statutory authority to operate an integrated, blended services model of care for youth and families. This State and nationally recognized model provides significant programmatic and funding flexibility to leverage Federal and State monies, while implementing a uniquely family-centered, community based service including child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice components.

As part of a system of care, there is a desire and a requirement to provide family and youth partnership and support services, known as family advocacy. Family advocates work effectively with our youth, parents, and families because they have direct experience with our formal service systems; family advocates can be parents of former youth in the Children’s System of Care, or adults who were previously served by the mental health system. They provide paraprofessional supports to families receiving probation, mental health, and/or child welfare services, such as mentoring, advocacy, education and outreach and engagement.

In 2014 and 2015, the Family Advocacy team served over 1,000 families in the Systems of Care. Since 2004, these services have assisted more than 9,000 Placer County families to be successful, by shortening court proceedings, reducing re-entry into foster care, and reducing grievances.

FISCAL IMPACT
The expenditures for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 are included in the Department’s FY 2016-17 Requested Budget and the remainder will be included in the Department’s FY 2017-18 Requested Budget. The full amount of this contract is funded by State revenues and no County General Funds are required.

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