

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division**

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: June 13, 2006
SUBJECT: Contract with Sierra Adoptions to provide permanency planning services for children in foster care FY2006-07

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the FY06-07 agreement with Sierra Adoption Services in the amount of \$60,000 to provide permanency planning services for children in foster care and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement.

BACKGROUND:

This contract will provide Placer County with the opportunity to participate in Destination Family, an evidence-based, best practice model for helping youth who are "aging out" of the foster care system to locate lifetime family relationships and assisting the youth to live in a permanent family. The goal of this program is that foster youth will have a permanent, lifelong connection to an adult prior to emancipating from the foster care system. The contract provides a master's degree staff person, with a minimum of three years experience in youth permanency, for 20 hours per week to work directly with the Placer County social workers and referred youth.

The primary strategy for permanence is to maintain children in their birth families or return children to their birth families. When that is not possible, permanence is about locating a lifetime family through adoption, guardianship or lifelong connections with caring adults for every youth in the foster care system.

"Destination Family", Sierra Adoption Services' program for youth permanency, has been implemented in Sacramento and Nevada Counties in collaboration with the California Department of Social Services, Adoptions Division, through a federal grant. The framework includes the following components:

1. Empowering young people to be fully involved in directing their own permanency and decision-making;
2. Empowering a wide range of individuals to also be involved including family members, caregivers, & community members;
3. Employing a comprehensive range of recruitment options; and
4. Collaboration with other systems that serve young people and families to provide services and support during and after placement.

Sierra Adoption Services is considered to be a sole source agency as there is no other agency in northern California currently providing this type of permanency work.

During the first year of services with Placer County, Sierra Adoptions is currently providing Destination Family services to five (5) Placer County Children. It is projected that an additional 12 children will be served by this program in FY06-07

FISCAL IMPACT:

The contract is fully funded by a combination of federal and state funding. There is no requirement for county funds.

The following contract for:

HHS CSOC:

1. Sierra Adoption Services contract for 2006-07

is on file with the Clerk of the Board
for BOS meeting:

June 13, 2006