

**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, Children's System of Care

DATE: May 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Amendment to Contract with Whole Person Learning to add Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the amendment to Contract Number CN012255 with Whole Person Learning, adding Transitional Housing Program-Plus services to the existing scope, to provide affordable housing and supportive services to former foster youth ages 18 to 24 to prevent homelessness and to increase the chances of successful transition to adulthood, and increasing compensation by \$188,871, from \$230,000 to \$418,871, for FY2006-07. No County General Fund contribution is required.

BACKGROUND:

Although Placer County's foster youth continue to excel in their education and employment, there are also those youth who continue to struggle. In FY2005-06, 5% of Placer County's foster youth who completed Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) services were homeless, 3% were receiving financial assistance, and 5% had been arrested. Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) is a State program created in 2001 to provide affordable housing and supportive services to former foster youth ages 18 to 24 to prevent homelessness and to increase the chances of successful transition to adulthood. In July 2006, the State removed all county match requirements and expanded the program to any county with an approved THP-Plus plan. Placer is one of 17 counties with an approved plan for FY2006-07. In response to recent legislation (AB712), the California Department of Social Services has announced a mid-year county funding augmentation to the FY2006/07 program.

Placer currently contracts with Whole Person Learning (WPL) to provide similar services including independent living skills and support to help eligible foster children transition into independent living, funded through the federal and State governments. The addition of these THP-Plus youth and the related housing component will complement the main focus of Placer County's existing program - education, counseling and the teaching of skills necessary for these children to obtain housing, obtain and maintain employment, manage money, secure transportation, etc. In all, youth are taught skills in 125 different competencies. WPL has continued to provide high quality ILSP services to Placer County foster children. In FY2005-06 (last complete year), WPL offered services to 164 youth, with 67 completing ILSP services. Eighty-seven percent of Placer County's ILSP participants complete high school and 90% secure employment. The results typically seen in the federal statistics are 50% failure to graduate and 45% unemployment.

The THP-Plus program is designed to offer a more intensive training and intervention as well as financial support to help these youth achieve a more successful transition into independent living as adults. This contract will provide THP-Plus services for up to ten youth through WPL. Placer County will receive \$2,800 per month per participant from the California Department of Social Services, which will go directly to youth needs (housing, utilities, food, savings, etc.) as well as provide for intensive training and support through WPL.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These expenditures include \$168,000 in program funding and \$20,871 in start-up costs, which will be included in the upcoming budget revision for Children's System of Care for fiscal year 2006-2007. This contract will be fully funded by State general funds and no County General Funds are required.

The following contract for:

Whole Person Learning

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

May 22, 2007