

**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:** June 12, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Whole Person Learning for Independent Living Skills Program and Transitional Housing Program-Plus Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the agreement with Whole Person Learning for FY2007-08 to provide independent living skills training and support to help eligible foster children ages 16 to 21 transition into independent living, and 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 the amount of \$562,512 plus State stipend and voucher funds. 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 services were homeless, 3% were receiving financial assistance, and 5% had been arrested.

Whole Person Learning has provided high quality Independent Living Skills Program services to Placer County foster children for the past 15 years. The Independent Living Skills Program helps eligible foster children ages 16 to 21 transition into independent living, funded through the federal and State governments. The main focus of this program is 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. In FY2005-06 (last complete year), this contractor has offered services to 164 youth, with 67 completing Independent Living Skills program services. Eighty-seven percent of Placer County's Independent Living Skills program participants complete high school and 90% secure employment. The results typically seen in the federal statistics are 50% failure to graduate and 45% unemployment.

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. 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 Whole Person Learning. 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 provided by Whole Person Learning.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The base amount of the FY2007-08 contract is \$226,512 in ongoing Independent Living Plan (ILP) allocation. Additional funds provided by the State for this program in the form of Emancipated Youth Stipend Funds are estimated to be \$14,951 and the Chaffee Post Secondary Education and Training Vouchers Allocation is estimated to be \$2,438, both of which will be in addition to the base amount of \$226,512. ILP services, the Emancipated Youth Stipend, and the Chaffee Post Secondary Education and Training Vouchers Allocation are funded through the Federal ILP allocation and State general funds. The THP-Plus services are also fully funded through State general funds in the amount of \$336,000. Neither program requires County General Fund participation.

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The following Contract for:

**Whole Person Learning  
FY2008-2009**

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

**June 12, 2007**