

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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
Bob Dunstan, Director of Human Services

DATE: September 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Contract with Schmidt Psychological Services, LLC for Psychological Evaluations

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a two-year contract with Schmidt Psychological Services, LLC, for psychological evaluations for the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010 in a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000 for the two-year term, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the contract and subsequent amendments up to 10% of the total contract amount. The FY 2008/09 County General Fund contribution for this service is \$9,000. These costs are reflected in the Department's 2008/09 Final Budget.

BACKGROUND:

This contract with Schmidt Psychological Services LLC has two parts: 1) to assess Welfare to Work clients for learning disabilities and 2) to assess General Relief and Medical Care Services Program (MCSP) recipients to assist them in establishing eligibility for Federal or State programs and benefits (SSI/SSP). The County is now formalizing the existing arrangement.

With the advent of Welfare reform in 1998, counties were compelled to screen for and offer learning disability testing to CalWORKs-Welfare to Work recipients. These assessments assist the County in employment counseling and addressing barriers to employment. Placer County has offered this testing since 1998, and is formalizing the process with the contract.

For General Relief and MCSP recipients, the County began offering the assessments in 2005 and found that a majority of cases referred for assessment are approved for SSI, thereby saving the County General Fund in General Relief and MCSP benefits.

These assessments will assist approximately 30 clients per year in obtaining long-term, stable benefits such as SSI and medical insurance in the form of Medi-Cal, and will allow the County to identify specific services necessary to assist Welfare to Work clients in achieving self-sufficiency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of these services is estimated at \$15,000 per year. The cost for the Welfare to Work assessments is funded through the CalWORKs single allocation. The cost for the General Relief/MCSP assessments is funded with County General Fund and is available within the Client and Program Aid Budget. The Department anticipates that the cost associated with the General Relief/MCSP assessments will be offset by the savings associated with the transfer of benefit eligibility to SSI/SSP.

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

