

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 of Children's System of Care

DATE February 23, 2010

SUBJECT Contract for Legal Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve an agreement with James R Yeo, Esq retroactive from December 15, 2009 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to provide legal services for appeals in child protective services cases, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement and subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the original amount These costs are included in the Department's FY 2009-10 Final Budget

BACKGROUND

The Children's System of Care is mandated to deliver protective services to minors at risk of abuse or neglect in Placer County In the course of protecting children, it is sometimes necessary to file legal actions against parents or other caregivers relative to their rights Of an estimated 190 court cases pertaining to parental rights filed annually in Placer County, a limited number of cases (less than 5 percent) result in the court's decision being appealed by the parent/caregiver

James Yeo provides specialized legal services to the Children's System of Care, in cases involving appeals of Child Welfare decisions These services include consultation, research, preparation, discovery, motions, court appearances, and appeals Mr Yeo possesses specific knowledge and skills relative to this unique area of the law including the specific timelines, documents, and relevant legal history in order to be successful in these often contentious cases, assisting County Counsel and allowing County staff more time for court appearances and legal motions

The rate of compensation for these services has been unchanged since 1999 This agreement is for the purchase of professional services and may be exempt from competitive solicitation in accordance with Purchasing Policy Section 1 3(a)

FISCAL IMPACT

Total expenditures of \$13,000 for the remainder of FY 2009-10 include \$10,725 in State funds and \$2,275 in County General Funds These costs are included in the Department's FY 2009-10 Final Budget

This agreement is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review

