

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, Director, Children's System of Care

DATE: April 6, 2010

SUBJECT: State-Mandated Child Welfare Services Plan Approvals

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the consolidated System Improvement Plan and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign and submit the plan to the State Department of Social Services, including the Notice of Intent and any related documents. The consolidated System Improvement Plan includes the following components:

- Child Welfare Services (CWS) Triennial System Improvement Plan
- Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT)/Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)/Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Plan

BACKGROUND:

Placer County's Children's System of Care (CSOC) has continually sought to further enhance its nationally recognized services. These enhancements have resulted in significant efficiencies and improved outcomes, including reducing the recurrence of abuse and neglect. Placer County's unique and highly collaborative integrated structure, which combines the efforts of Child Welfare, Mental Health, Juvenile Probation, and some Special Education services, is known statewide as the "Placer Model". Since 2006, this service approach has resulted in a 20 percent reduction in foster placements and 25 percent reduction in out-of-county and institutional placements.

Placer's Children's System of Care efforts were recently acknowledged when one of Placer County's employees, Kristin Siles, was selected as the Polly Klaas Foundation 2010 Northern California Social Worker of the Year. This award comes as counties and communities around the country celebrate April as National Child Abuse Prevention month.

Through continued effective implementation of this plan, CSOC meets or exceeds most of the associated Federal and State mandates, including a 96 percent compliance with timely foster care visitation and more than 140 children being successfully adopted. Through submission of this plan, CSOC is able to access nearly \$1.3 million in Federal and State funds. Approximately 25 percent of these funds may be used to support long-standing community alliances with highly committed partners including Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center, KidsFirst, and North Tahoe Family Resource Center, as they deliver a host of community education, parent training, counseling, and public awareness services. All told, these organizations reach more than 5,000 children who would have otherwise escalated needs and likely required formal government delivered child welfare services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Submission of the consolidated system improvement plan is required to access \$1.3 million in Federal and State funds annually. There are no County General Funds associated with the approval of these plans.

The combined Child Welfare Services Triennial System Improvement Plan and CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Plan is on file with the Clerk of the Board for your review.

