

**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 of Children's System of Care

**DATE:** July 9, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California to Provide Family Advocacy Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Approve an agreement with Mental Health America of Northern California in an amount not to exceed \$562,355 (no net County cost) from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 to provide youth and family advocacy services, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign subsequent amendments not to exceed \$49,999, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1996, Placer County Health and Human Services has had unique statutory authority to operate a blended services pilot (the Placer model). This State and nationally recognized model provides significant programmatic and funding flexibility to leverage Federal and State monies, while implementing a uniquely family-centered, community-based service to meet State requirements for child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice. In doing so, the Department can more flexibly use Federal and State dollars, creating a more cost-effective and efficient system of care focused on outcomes for families.

One of the State requirements in child welfare and mental health services is to provide family and youth partnership and support services (Family Advocacy Program). Specifically, parents of former youth in the Children's System of Care, or adults who were previously served by the mental health system, provide paraprofessional supports to families receiving probation, mental health and child welfare services. This approach is supported by the System Management Advocacy and Resource Team (SMART) policy board, including judges and the Probation Department.

Last year, the 12-person Family Advocacy Program team served nearly 300 families in the Adult and Children's Systems of Care. Since 2004, these services have assisted more than 8,000 Placer County families to be successful, by shortening court proceedings, reducing re-entry into foster care, and reducing grievances.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Total expenditures of \$562,355 are included in the Department's FY 2013-14 Proposed Budget. This contract is funded by State funds and no County General Funds are required.

This contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

