

**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: Contract with Sierra Forever Families to Provide Behavioral Health Services to Adoptive Children

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve a contract with Sierra Forever Families to provide specialized behavioral health services to adoptive children and their families in the amount of \$196,235 (\$59,235 net County cost) to provide services from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the resulting contract and subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the total amount, consistent with the current agreement's subject matter and scope of work.

BACKGROUND:

The Children's System of Care has, with the help and support of court partners, successfully placed an average of 45 foster children into permanent adoptive homes each year over the last decade. Evidence-based post-adoption services are designed to assist both children and families as they heal from past trauma, begin to develop trust and enjoy stability and consistency of a permanent family environment.

When adoptions are not successful, and the minor returns to the care of the State, the interpersonal outcomes are devastating to all involved and the costs to the County are significant. Research confirms that post-adoption services are effective in assisting children as they adjust to changes and begin to thrive in their new adoptive families. Since implementation of this service 18 months ago, the number of youth returning to care has been reduced. Armed with these extended services, families are far better positioned to make the long-term commitment to adoption, assuring a truly permanent family setting for these youth.

Sierra Forever Families was selected from a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2011 based on its evidence-based practices in trauma-focused care and extensive experience with the trust and stability issues with children and families. For more than two decades, Sierra Forever Families has been a leader on the state level for these cost-effective services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total expenditures of \$196,235 are unchanged from the previous contract total and are included in the Department's FY 2013-14 Proposed Budget. This contract is funded by \$137,000 in Federal and State funds and \$59,235 in County General Funds.

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

