

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 for Legal Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve an agreement with James R. Yeo, Esq. from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 (\$6,000 net County cost) to provide legal services for appeals in child protective services cases, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the agreement.

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 this mandate, 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 and court appearances. Mr. Yeo possesses specific knowledge and skills relative to this unique area of the law including the specific timelines, documents, and relevant legal history necessary to be successful in these often contentious cases, allowing assigned County Counsel to more effectively use their expertise in other court cases. County Counsel is fully supportive of this approach.

The rate of compensation for these services has been unchanged since 1999. This agreement is for the purchase of professional services and is exempt from competitive solicitation in accordance with Purchasing Policy Section 1.3(a).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total expenditures of \$40,000 include \$34,000 in Federal and State funds, and \$6,000 in County General Funds. Funding of \$20,000 is included in the Department's FY 2013-14 Proposed Budget, and \$20,000 will be included in the Department's FY 2014-15 Requested Budget.

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

