

**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 and Human Services  
Richard S. Knecht, Director of Children's System of Care

**DATE:** November 5, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Multi-Agency Systems Management, Advocacy and Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T.)  
Children's System of Care Update

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Provide an informational update on the Systems Management, Advocacy and Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T.) policy collaborative.

**BACKGROUND:**

The S.M.A.R.T. Children's System of Care is a unique multi-agency collaborative which has effectively served Placer County's children and their caregivers for nearly 25 years. Known as the Placer Model, it is widely acknowledged to be among the most efficient and effective publicly funded children's service organizations in the country.

Recent outcomes for children in need of mental health, child welfare and juvenile probation services reflect an increasingly engaged community and a more cost effective service model for the County. As a result, among other exceptional outcomes, the number of foster children in care is half the statewide average, and the number of juvenile probationers in detention has been reduced by more than 50 percent since 2008.

The key multi-agency partnership which makes this collaborative a success is the S.M.A.R.T. The S.M.A.R.T. policy board includes the Chief Probation Officer, Director of Health and Human Services, the County Superintendent of Schools, and is chaired by the Presiding Juvenile Court Officer, whose predecessor was the driving visionary to bring these partner agencies together in 1989. This multi-agency partnership best positions the County to respond to the needs of residents, using cost effective, evidence-based approaches. In recent years, through effective community outreach and engagement, the S.M.A.R.T. Children's System of Care and its partners have made significant inroads in reaching underserved populations and in fostering a heightened independence for Placer County families.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This action has no fiscal impact.

