



NEVADA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 28, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Peña

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nevada County District Attorney's Office (DA) and the Health and Human Services Agency - Department of Social Services (DSS) for DA to receive revenue from DSS, for services related to Welfare Fraud Control in the maximum amount of \$25,000 for FY 24/25.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Services are funded through available CalWORKs and CalFresh allocations and were budgeted in the FY 2024/25 department budget. There are no County General funds required in this Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

This is a renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the District Attorney's (DA) Office. The Agreement provides for the maintenance of an Early Fraud Prevention Team within DSS, with the ability to transfer primary responsibility to the DA in cases of intentional fraud or criminal activity.

A county welfare department (Department of Social Services), depending on the CalWORKs caseload, may or may not be required to maintain a Special Investigative Unit and may establish an equivalent substitute unit in another county department under a plan of cooperation approved by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and may refer suspected fraud cases to the local prosecuting authority for the investigation and for coordination and cooperation with CDSS. It is the responsibility of the County and the DSS to pursue prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of fraud perpetrated in the course of public assistance benefit issuance.

DSS has determined that the control of welfare fraud can be most efficiently and effectively achieved and maintained through an Early Fraud Prevention Team within DSS. If, after preliminary investigation by DSS, it is determined that there is potential intentional fraud or criminal activity, the primary responsibility would be transferred to the District Attorney's Office. The DA has the desired experience and expertise to investigate and prosecute suspected fraud in public assistance programs. DSS wishes to continue to utilize the DA services by entering into an agreement whereby DSS shall provide funding to reimburse the DA for their services at the established hourly rate of \$149.19, for a total maximum amount not to exceed \$25,000.

It is recommended that the Board approve this renewal Memorandum of Understanding to continue the Department's commitment toward welfare fraud prevention and control in the course of public assistance benefit issuance.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Rachel Peña, LCSW Director of Social Services