



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**AGENCY**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2019  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** **Phebe Bell**  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing execution of a renewal contract with Sierra Forever Families for the provision of comprehensive Specialty Mental Health Services, primarily targeted to serve pre- and post-adoptive and guardianship children and their families in the maximum amount of \$965,301 for Fiscal Year 2019/20.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Multiple funding sources are braided together to support these key programs. Services are mainly funded by Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (FFP), 2011 Realignment funds and Mental Health Services ACT (MHSA) monies. Additionally, the contract is supported by PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) annual allocation monies. The services were planned for in the department FY 2019/20 budget and the Agreement requires no county general fund dollars.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under the current contract, Sierra Forever Families provides comprehensive specialized mental health and rehabilitation services for children and youth. The primary target population is pre- and post-adoptive and guardianship children and families. The service area includes both Eastern and Western Nevada County. Services focus on issues related to trauma and permanency for those children who have been removed from birth families.

This population is at risk for a range of mental health illnesses and social-emotional behavioral difficulties stemming from negative pre-adoptive experiences. Some of the more common mental health problems that these particular children/youth may be prone to include: depression,

learning/attention problems, low self-esteem, social or peer-related problems, Attention Deficit Disorder, lingering effects of trauma, attachment issues, and risky behavioral problems including alcohol/drug abuse and self-destructive behavior.

Sierra Forever Families will also provide more intensive Wraparound therapeutic services to children through age 21 needing this level of service.

Additionally, the contract includes Family Preservation and In-Home Parenting Services. The Family Preservation Program is a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure that families at risk of child abuse and/or neglect or mandatory CPS intervention, can stay together. The program services are managed and authorized by Behavioral Health; however Child Protective Services works closely with the Contractor.

Referrals may come from Nevada County Child Welfare Services (CWS) after originating from schools, community partners, and the CWS Program. All referrals originating from a source other than Child Protective Services must be approved by CWS designated staff prior to Contractor providing services. The Contractor provides a multi-disciplinary team as the core of this program's service delivery system, consisting of Family Preservation Workers, a Public Health Nurse, a Clinical Therapist, a parent mentor, an Intake Worker, and a Program Supervisor.

It is recommended the Board approve this Agreement as it provides for a comprehensive, integrated approach for services that promotes child development and improves outcomes for the successful integration into an adoptive family or guardianship situation as well as encourages family preservation and family reunification when appropriate.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Phebe Bell, MSW, Director of Behavioral Health