



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: September 10, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Tex Ritter**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal personal services contract with Stanford Youth Solutions (formerly Sierra Forever Families) for the provision of services related to Resource Family Approval (RFA) and Post-Adoption Services in the maximum amount of \$190,750 for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services will be supported by the Department's 2011 Realignment funds for Adoptions Administration. A budget amendment is not necessary and there are no county general fund dollars required in this Agreement.

BACKGROUND: Sierra Forever Families (SFF) and Stanford Youth Solutions (SYS) announce the merging of the two organizations, effective July 1, 2019. SFF and SYS have complementary missions and operations and have an extensive history of collaborating to provide services and supports to youth and families. They are well-established nonprofit agencies that have proudly served the community for a combined total of over 150 years. The merging of the organizations will result in the ability to provide the highest quality of comprehensive services and a greater continuum of care for youth and families, who need specialized services that address mental health, juvenile justice, foster care and adoptions, post permanency, and family support services. As a merged organization, they will serve nearly 4,500 youth and their families throughout Northern California, including Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Napa counties.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) is a result of the legislation AB 403 also known as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). One of the basic tenants of CCR is that all children and non-minor dependents (NMD) in foster care have normalcy in development while establishing permanent life-long family relationships. To that end, RFA (the new process by which families become approved to foster children) was created to provide a uniform process to replace several existing processes. Foster families, relative caregivers, and non-related extended family members (NREFMs) are required to go through the same approval process which includes a home assessment, background checks, preapproval and post-approval training, psychosocial assessment, and a health screening. Through this process Resource Families are approved to foster children but also to adopt and provide guardianship. This eliminates a separate adoptions approval process and allows Resource Families to provide permanency to children in their care (if needed) in a timelier manner.

The Contractor will provide Family Evaluations to Resource Family applicants. Additionally, the Contractor will provide a written home study that will give recommendations on approval or denial of applicants and provide the reasons for that determination.

The Contractor will also provide post-adoptive services to all Nevada County families referred by Child Welfare Services who have a finalized adoption which includes monthly adoptive parent support groups, information, linkage to supports, and referral services to adoptive families from Nevada County.

It is recommended that the Board approve this renewal contract as these services are vital in approving Resource Families for fostering and providing permanency to children within the county.

Item Initiated by: Nicholas Ready

Approved by: Tex Ritter, JD, Director of Social Services