



**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 14, 2016  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** **Mike Dent**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Environmental Alternatives, Inc. (EA) for Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support (FPRRS) activities to 1) extend the contract termination date from June 30, 2016 to December 31, 2016, and 2) amend Exhibit "B" Schedule of Charges and Payments to reflect a change in the Contract Expenditure Breakdown for the unchanged maximum amount of \$100,000.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Contract services will be supported by additional State and Federal funds awarded to Social Services under the Budget Act of 2015 for Foster Parent Recruitment Retention and Support (FPRRS) which allocates state-wide funding to recruit, retain and support foster parents, resource families and relative caregivers. Pending state budget legislation for FY 2016/17 will allow for an extension of expending current fiscal year funds into the next fiscal year. A budget amendment is not necessary and there are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:**

Per Resolution 16-067, the Board approved the contract with Environmental Alternatives, Inc. Under this Agreement, Environmental Alternatives, Inc. provides services related to the Foster Parent Recruitment Retention and Support (FPRRS) resulting from new legislation AB 403 also known as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). CCR is a series of interdependent recommendations to: improve assessments of minors, non-minor dependents (NMD); help families make more informed and appropriate initial placement decisions, with an emphasis on home-based family care placements; appropriately support those placements with available services; change the goals for congregate (group home) care placements, and increase transparency and accountability for outcomes.

A specific recommendation was made to strengthen foster parent, resource family and relative caregiver retention, recruitment, training requirements and strategies. The recommendation envisions these caregivers to be active partners with public child welfare workers and service providers, with the ultimate goal of stepping children and youth down from congregate care and placing children in the most family-like settings. As such, this contract will expand recruitment and include relative caregivers and nonrelated extended family members (NREFMs) training.

Part of CCR is Resource Family Approval (RFA). RFA is a new streamlined licensing, relative approval, and adoption process and applies to all related and non-related families providing care in child welfare. RFA is designed to hold all foster caregivers to the same high standard. The mandated implementation for RFA is January 1, 2017. In order to meet this deadline Nevada County Child Protective Services (CPS) will use FPRRS funds to begin implementation of RFA.

Under this Agreement, the Contactor will provide recruitment, pre-approval training, and licensure of Foster Family homes in Nevada County, providing at least 12 hours of preapproval training to Kinship Caregivers and assistance in obtaining required documents. Upon placement of a child in a home, EA will provide bi-monthly visits to the home (this is in addition to the CPS social worker monthly visit) for the first three months after the initial placement. Twenty-four hour on-call support will be provided to Kinship Caregivers through an EA hotline. EA will also provide on-going training to Kinship Caregivers by providing six trainings a year on various topics.

EA will use local family events such as fairs, festivals, Day of the Young Child event, street markets, to recruit and register foster parents. Recruitment will focus on parents willing to foster older children (ages 11-17), foster sibling sets, and a respite home that would be willing to take any child at any time for up to 30 days. Efforts will also focus on Eastern Nevada County mainly the Truckee area. An advertisement campaign (radio, newspaper, internet, flyers, etc.) will be launched to recruit foster parents and raise awareness in the community for the need.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment which will extend services through December 31, 2016 for FPRRS activities to advance the overall objective of implementing Continuum of Care Reform and Resource Family Approval in order to strengthen Kinship Caregivers and increase the number of foster children living in family-like settings within the County.

**Item Initiated by:** Nicholas Ready

**Approved by:** Mike Dent