



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 10, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mike Dent**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Environmental Alternatives, Inc. (EA) for Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support (FPRRS) activities in the amount of \$200,000 for the term of January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

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. Services are within the Department's FY 16/17 budget and there are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: Foster Parent Recruitment Retention and Support (FPRRS) is a result of the 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. Nevada County Child Protective Services (CPS) has met the mandated implementation date of January 1, 2017 for RFA through this contract.

Under this Agreement, the Contactor will provide recruitment, pre-approval training, and licensure of resource family homes in Nevada County. Contractor will provide at least 12 hours of Pre-approval RFA training to resource families and assistance in obtaining required documents. EA will also provide on-going monthly trainings to approved resource families 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 resource families. Recruitment will focus on families willing to foster older children (ages 11-17), foster sibling sets, a respite home that would be willing to take any child at any time for up to 30 days, recruitment specific to youth on probation, creation of Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) homes and TFC homes specific to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). 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 resource families and raise awareness in the community for the need.

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Resolution to contract with EA for FPRRS services to implement the Continuum of Care Reform and Resource Family Approval in order to strengthen resource families and increase the number of foster children living in family-like settings within the county.

Item Initiated by: Nicholas Ready

Approved by: Mike Dent, Director of Social Services