



NEVADA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mike Dent

SUBJECT: Resolution approving Nevada County's System Improvement Plan (SIP) for Fiscal Years 2016-2021.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: No funding is required to approve the County's System Improvement Plan (SIP). The programs covered by the SIP are funded through Federal/State sources and County realignment. There is no budget amendment needed, nor impact to the General Fund, as a result of this item.

BACKGROUND: In February 2001, the California Legislature enacted the "Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act" (AB 636) to ensure that the critical needs of children and families in the child welfare system were met. The passage of this legislation was propelled by lack of a cohesive structure for the child welfare system as well as the need for more communication between agencies and courts serving foster children. California faces federal review of federally funded child service programs by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) every five years. Failure to pass the federal review holds the potential for a loss of federal dollars provided pursuant to Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act - the major source of funding for California's child welfare system.

Nevada County follows a five year cycle for System Improvement driven by AB 636. This cycle was initiated with a County Self-Assessment (CSA) which was an in-depth look into the child welfare and juvenile probation systems in the county. The CSA gathered quantitative data on outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being for children who enter the system. It also gathered qualitative data from stakeholders, foster

parents, birth parents, and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems. The next key component in the cycle was a Peer Review which brought social workers and probation officers from other counties who were doing well in an identified area to look in-depth at specific cases to identify strengths and areas for improvement. In Nevada County the Peer Review focused on exits to permanency in 12 months for children entering care. The data from the CSA and the Peer Review was then utilized to build the System Improvement Plan (SIP). Several common themes emerged as needing improvement. Mainly timely exits to permanency, foster parent recruitment, retention and support, and placement stability were prioritized for improvement strategies.

Item Initiated by: Nicholas Ready

Approved by: Mike Dent, Director of Social Services