



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/27/2018

Agenda Placement: 6G

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: JoAnn Melgar for Howard Himes - Director
Health & Human Services Administration

REPORT BY: JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722

SUBJECT: MOU with the California Department of Social Services (Resource Family Approval)

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the term January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 for the purpose of establishing the role and responsibilities of the CDSS Legal Division for administrative action appeals associated with the Resource Family Approval program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the role and responsibilities of the CDSS Legal Division for administrative action appeals associated with the Resource Family Approval program. This MOU provides that the CDSS Legal Division shall act as the sole legal representative on behalf of the County in the provision of legal consultations and representation on appeals to an RFA Notice of Action. The County is the client and is the final decision maker on decisions affecting the legal rights of the County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program was created to provide a unified, family-friendly and child-centered resource family approval process to replace multiple processes for licensing foster homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers, and approving adoptive families. The RFA program also establishes a single set of standards for resource family approvals which allow for the safety, permanence and well-being needs of the children who have been victims of child abuse and neglect, reduces the use of congregate care placement settings and decreases the length of time for each child to obtain permanency.

To assume the responsibility for foster home licensing, counties must conform to the rules, regulations and standards for foster home licensing as outlined in Health and Safety Code Chapter 3, the California Community Care Facilities Act. Further, the County must execute a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) through the Community Care Licensing (CCL) division. The last MOU between Napa County and CCL was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. CCL has requested that a new MOU be authorized, updating the new Resource Family Approval (RFA) program in place of the prior Foster Care Licensing program.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the role and responsibilities of the CDSS Legal Division for administrative action appeals associated with the Resource Family Approval program. This MOU is not mandatory. However, an RFA appeal can take up significant time and resources of County Counsel staff. This MOU provides that the CDSS Legal Division shall act as the sole legal representative on behalf of the County in the provision of legal consultations on appeals to an RFA Notice of Action. The County is the client and is the final decision maker on decisions affecting the legal rights of the County.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Ben Guerrieri