



AGENDA ITEM NO.
2-9

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: October 13, 2015

Date: September 15, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Phillip R. Crandall *smc for*
Director, Department of Health and Human Services- Social Services

Subject: Global Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Child Welfare Services with California Department of Social Services and California Department of Health Care Services

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached Global Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding child welfare services with California Department of Social Services (CDSS), California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Children and Family Services; and
2. Authorize the Chairperson to execute three (3) originals of the MOU; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to route two (2) fully executed originals of the MOU to the DHHS- Contract Unit for forwarding to DHHS- Social Services Administration.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Social Services Fund 1160

Amey Jensen

Prepared by _____ CAO Approval _____

REVIEW: Auditor *MSM* County Counsel *HZ* Personnel _____ Risk Manager *TH* Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent

Departmental

Public Hearing

Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Sandberg* Seconded by Supervisor *Bass*

Ayes *Sandberg, Laelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass*

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *October 13, 2015*

By: *Kathy Hayes*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

DISCUSSION:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presented to the Board is entered into by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and those California Counties and those Title IV-E Tribes that agree to the terms and conditions by becoming signatories. The MOU sets forth the terms and conditions for the exchange of confidential data, collected and retained by CDSS and DHCS for the purpose of matching the confidential data in order to meet the oversight mandates of State and Federal agencies. Further, the MOU also identifies the terms and conditions imposed when it is necessary for CDSS or DHCS, for program purposes, to share identifiable and de-identified matched data with signatory counties.

The MOU will allow Humboldt County DHHS – Children & Family Services to fulfill the responsibility of Welfare & Institutions Code §10800 to ensure the health and safety of children or non-minor dependents receiving child welfare services. The MOU provides the necessary framework for the sharing of confidential data between CDSS and Humboldt County DHHS – Children and Family Services. The data that CDSS and Humboldt will share under this agreement includes data related to the oversight required for the provision of psychotropic medication to children in foster care.

The Foster Care Quality Improvement Project (QIP) was initiated in 2012 by CDSS and the DHCS in response to expanding federal requirements. The resulting collaborative QIP is reviewing and enhancing the oversight of psychotropic medications prescribed to foster children in California. A Global Data-Use MOU was reached between CDSS and DHCS in order to share Medi-Cal billing information, foster care placement information, etc. The QIP has utilized the resulting data to match placement information with psychotropic medications paid for by Medi-Cal in order to help identify patterns and provide better oversight. CDSS then provides this minimal list of matching data to each county.

Humboldt County was recently provided this de-identified list of foster care cases that matched data for psychotropic medication billing. The list provided to the county is limited in its usefulness without the addition of more detailed information that could be provided through this MOU. For example, the de-identified list shows that some type of psychotropic medication was billed and paid for by Medi-Cal but it does not indicate which specific medication. Child Welfare Services (CWS) is required to seek court approval for the administration of any psychotropic medication to a dependent child through the JV220 process. The de-identified information provided currently does not allow CWS to ensure that the approved JV220 court authorization is for the same medication that has been billed to Medi-Cal.

The Data Sharing Agreement presented to the Board for consideration would allow Humboldt County DHHS- Children and Family Services to receive more detailed information that will provide for more comprehensive oversight. The MOU complies with all applicable state and federal laws regarding privacy and security as well as HIPAA mandates.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no costs for the county associated with this MOU. There is no impact on the County General Fund.

Approving this MOU supports the Board's Strategic Framework by creating opportunities for the improved safety and health of county residents and protecting vulnerable populations.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose to not approve this MOU; however that is not recommended by DHHS.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Three originals of the Memorandum of Understanding between DHHS – Children and Family Services and California Department of Social Services