



Agenda Item

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DATE: February 24, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Delfino E. Neira, Director
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Mid-Year Adjustments to Foster Care Assistance Org 6410

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Protective Services Subaccount Org 6210 in the amount of \$868,842 (4/5th vote).
2. Adopt Budget Resolution increasing the FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Dependent Children – Foster Care Org 6410 in the amount of \$868,842 (4/5th vote).

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Social Services (DSS) to utilize 2011 Realignment Foster Care Assistance Growth received in the Protective Services Subaccount to offset higher than anticipated Foster Care Assistance payment expenditures projected through June 30, 2015.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(s):

There are no viable alternative actions. Mandated aid for support and maintenance of a child's out-of-home placement are paid out of the Dependent Children – Foster Care Org 6410. If the recommended increase in appropriations and estimated revenues is not approved, the Department will not have sufficient appropriations to continue to make out-of-home placement payments through June 30, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in net County cost associated with the recommended actions. Based on the current year caseload trends, the Department's current projected average number of placements to

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APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

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foster family agencies (FFA) and group homes is 1,192, which is 4.7% or an average of 54 placements per month higher than what was originally projected in the adopted budget (1,138). The estimated cost of the caseload growth (\$868,842) will be fully offset with 2011 Realignment Foster Care Growth received in the current year.

If approved, the first recommended action will increase FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues in the Protective Services Subaccount Org 6210 in the amount of \$868,842, to recognize Foster Care Assistance Growth received under 2011 Realignment. The second recommended action will increase FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues in Dependent Children – Foster Care Org 6410 in the amount of \$868,842. This will allow the Department to utilize the 2011 Realignment Growth Funds to fully offset the cost increase associated with the higher than anticipated FFA and group home placements.

DISCUSSION:

The Department is mandated to provide foster care assistance for each child placed in out-of-home care, which includes placements to relatives, foster homes, foster family agencies, or group homes. The assistance payments provide for food, housing, and basic needs of children and vary in amounts depending on the type of placement, the age of the child, and the level of support that is needed by the child. While the preferred placement goal for children is first with relatives and then in foster homes, ultimately, the decision is based on the safety and individual needs of the child and if no relatives or foster home placements are suitable or available, the placement is then made into an FFA or a group home as a last resort.