

# The County of Yuba

## Health and Human Services Department

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jennifer Vasquez, Director  
Tony Gordon, Deputy Director  
Health and Human Services Department

**SUBJECT:** Approve Agreement with Children’s Hope Foster Family Agency for Emergency Placement Services and authorize Chair to sign

**DATE:** October 22, 2024

**NUMBER:** 559/2024

### *Recommendation*

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the agreement between Yuba County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) and Children’s Hope Foster Family Agency (CHFFA) for emergency placement services for children involved in Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) programs for the term on October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026, and authorize the Chair to sign.

### *Background*

On January 10, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved HHSD’s request to solicit proposals from qualified, licensed Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) to provide emergency placement services such as emergency housing, intensive case management, coordination, transportation, and crisis intervention. The purpose of the services is to provide emergency placement of vulnerable children with approved resource families while pending more permanent placement arrangements.

Currently, when a child is under the supervision of the county and there are no immediate family members to provide care, HHSD must work to identify placement with a FFA or resource family. Occasionally, there are children with complex needs that results in a lengthier process to secure appropriate placement. HHSD must provide continuous care and supervision of the child, which includes securing a suitable location, purchasing and providing meals, laundry, transportation to medical appointments and school, administering medication and any other specialized needs they have during the length of their stay. Social Workers, Supervisors, and Public Health nurses need to work in rotating shifts for the entirety of the child or youth’s stay until out-of-home placement is arranged. Since FY 21/22, HHSD recorded 22 instances of staff providing direct care and supervision of 13 children and youth for a total duration of 132 days while pending placement.

## *Discussion*

In 2023, HHSD did not receive any responses to their request for proposals. Since then, CHFFA has expressed their interest and has proven they have the capacity and expertise to provide the desired services and are committed to helping foster children who need a temporary stable home. CHFFA will respond to referrals for emergency placement services from CAPS 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week and will accept physical care and custody of any child or youth referred within two (2) hours of the referral. Contracting with CHFFA to secure immediate, emergency placement has many advantages, including:

- Supports emergency placement in the least restrictive, most family-like environment available, thus reducing the impact of trauma to the child or youth
- Offers specialized services, so the child can receive necessary emotional and behavioral health services in a setting that includes intensive supervision
- Provides transitional support during placement in certified Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) level of care resource family homes
- Coordination of placements, respite care, on-call teams, placement disruption
- Cost savings to the department, including the cost of overtime wages, lodging, meals and transportation expenses

## *Committee Action:*

The Human Services Committee was bypassed as there is no impact to general funds and is routine in nature.

## *Fiscal Impact:*

### Budget

- Included in the FY 2024/2025 Budget Appropriation

### Total Projected Cost

- 2 – year contract \$125,000.00

### Source of Funds

- Non-General Funds \$125,000.00 Federal and State Funding
  - Realignment funds

## *Attachments*

559/2024 Children's Hope FFA Emergency Placement Agmnt 2024-2026