RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-22

MEETING: January 14, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Lawless, Interim Human Services Director

RE: Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with John LaLonde

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION: Approve an Amendment and budget action for the Professional Services Agreement with John LaLonde to provide legal services for Mariposa County Human Services, increasing the not to exceed amount by $16,000, and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the Amendment.

It is the goal of Child Welfare to work with families to prevent removal; however, in cases of abandonment, imminent danger, and/or sexual molestation, there is a need to remove children from the adults who are abusing them. Such action requires that we bring the matter before the Juvenile Court. Three separate court proceedings (detention, jurisdiction, and disposition) are involved. All parties in court are represented by counsel, including the child and the parents. The Department must have qualified legal representation to be able to act in the best interest of the child and to do so in a manner that is lawful and prevents civil litigation to the greatest extent possible. The laws surrounding Child Welfare are complex. It is difficult for most counties to find quality legal representation.

John LaLonde can also provide paralegal services for the Public Guardian/Conservator unit currently housed in the Behavioral Health Division of Human Services. He has the expertise to support our staff in accurately preparing documents for the court.

The original agreement amount was not to exceed $16,000, and it has become necessary to increase the original agreement amount by $16,000 to meet the need for services. The attached budget action funds the increase within the Social Services budget unit 001-0501.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS: The current Professional Service Agreement with John LaLonde was approved by the Board on July 23, Resolution 2013-308.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION: If the Board does not approve the Amendment, the department will not have access to Mr. LaLonde's legal representation or legal expertise for child welfare cases. This service was provided by others in the past and is a vital component of department services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Funding will be transferred within the Social Services Budget to accommodate the Amendment. There is no impact to the County General Fund.
Additional Funding Needed: $ Amendment, Pages 1-2
Source: Original PSA, Pages 3-10
Internal Transfer Budget Action Form, Page 11
Unanticipated Revenue 4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds 4/5's vote
Contingency 4/5's vote
( ) General ( ) Other
01/07/14 001-0501-661-0418 · Professional Services $16,000.00
01/07/14 001-0501-661-0441 · CalWORKS Transportation ($16,000.00)
Total: $0.00

ATTACHMENTS:
LaLonde PSA-2014 Amendment 1 (PDF)
LaLonde PSA-2014 Amendment 1 Budget Action (PDF)
LaLonde PSA 2014 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Rick Benson, County Administrator 2/2014

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
# BUDGET ACTION FORM

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** (Check all that apply)

( ) Budget appropriation by Board of Supervisors (4/5ths Vote Required): Amending the total amount available in the county budget, or in any one fund of the budget, or transferring appropriation from Contingencies.

(X ) Transfer by Board of Supervisors (3/5ths Vote Required): Moving existing appropriations from one budget to another, or between categories within a budget unit;

**JUSTIFICATION** To cover increase in John LaLonde's contract for FY13/14.

**DEPT HEAD SIGNATURE** 

**DATE** 12/24/13

**APPROVED BY RES NO.** 14-22 CLERK LaK

**DATE** 1-15-14

**DEPARTMENT** Human Services

**AUDITOR'S USE ONLY**

**BA #**

Budget Revision Form Revise