RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: POLICY ITEM: YES ( ) NO (X)

In association with the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Advisory Boards, it is respectfully recommended that your Board enter into five agreements with Kings View Corporation that total $2,121,470.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
SEE ATTACHED

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

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COSTS: ( ) Not Applicable
A. Budgeted CURRENT FY $2,121,470
B. Total anticipated costs $___________
C. Required add’l funding $___________
D. Internal transfers $___________
   SOURCE: ( ) 4/5’s vote required
   ( ) Budgeted

A. Unanticipated revenues $___________
B. Reserve for Contingencies $___________
C. Source description:______________________________
   Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: $___________

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CLERK’S USE ONLY:  
Resolution No.: #2-178
Ordinance No.: ____________________________
Vote: Ayes: ___  Noes: ___  Absent: ___  Abstain: ___  

( ) Approved  ( ) Denied
( ) Minute Order attached.
( ) No Action Necessary.
The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date: ____________________________

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board,
County of Mariposa,
State of California

BY: ____________________________
   Deputy

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
List the attachments and number pages accordingly:
Mental Health Agreement
Child Abuse Prevention Agreement
CalWORKs MH and A&D Agreement
Alcohol & Drug Agreement
Proposition 36 Agreement

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:
This item on Agenda as:
___Recommended  ___Returned for further action
___Not recommended  ___Submitted w/ comment
___Policy determination

Comment:______________________________
______________________________

A.O. Initials: __________

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TO: Members, Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly

RE: Mental Health Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

In association with the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Advisory Boards, it is respectfully recommended that your Board enter into five agreements with Kings View Corporation that total $2,121,470.

BACKGROUND

Mariposa County has procured the services of Kings View Corporation for approximately 30 years for the provision of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. Over the past decade, the contractor was simply awarded money with no guidance and evaluation by the Human Services Department. The court and law enforcement needed a different level of service than they were receiving. The contractor, from their perspective, was placed in the difficult position of trying to provide services while confusion existed as to what services were needed, for whom and for what amount of money. The matter was of concern to Counsel and the Auditor-Controller.

In October 2000 an additional $96,000 was awarded to Mariposa County to expand the Children's System of Care program. That program provides services to some of the most disturbed children and troubled families in the County. The judge, who served on the policy board for that program, indicated that the money should not come to the County unless the Human Services Department accepted responsibility for the program. He was concerned that the program would not accept new referrals from the Court while only eleven families were served over a one-year period by a team of four (4) full time professionals. Concurrently, the Sheriff indicated that to serve the community and reduce the County's exposure to litigation, he needed 24-hour psychiatric response to individuals who were a danger to themselves and/or others, as well as consistent forensic services in the jail. The matter was of such concern that the Sheriff considered requesting authorization to hire such staff himself at local expense. However, he kindly allowed the Human Services Department time to improve service delivery.

In response to agency and advisory board concerns about client needs, the Human Services Department accepted management of the Children's System of Care; informed the contractor that a 24-hour psychiatric emergency response, operational in the other California counties, would have to be activated here; jail services would have to be better coordinated with law enforcement; and future contracts would be based on program budgets with staffing patterns and numbers of clients seen in each program and outcome objectives. At the same time, the Advisory Boards began to assume a much
more active role in that they were not only advising as to program needs but actually assisting with program planning and positive change.

As your Board is well aware, change is never easy. Some contract staff were naturally concerned and made attempts to halt the new requirements by contacting some of you. However, since that time, it is my pleasure to inform you that the contractor made the requested changes, attempted to plan for programs in a more positive manner and are very proud of the 24-hour emergency response that was implemented. Generally, there has been improvement in the relationship between law enforcement and the contractor as well as with other human service providers. In terms of the costs of services and statistics now available, the contractor is looking for methods to improve and expand services and to lower the cost per hour of services in some programs.

CURRENT SITUATION

There are five agreements and they are as follows:

1. Mental Health Agreement, Including Children’s System of Care: Amount: $1,164,658

The Children’s System of Care is managed by Human Services. We employ a Social Service Supervisor II to oversee the program. This program continues to serve some of the most disturbed children and families in the county. Working together to provide intensive counseling services to safeguard children, as well as to prevent costly out-of-home placements, are a Probation Officer, a School Counselor, a Parent Advocate and a recently hired Mental Health therapist. The next child welfare/protection social worker hired will be placed in this system-of-care unit.

The program staff are accepting referrals from the Court and other providers and working diligently to improve relationships with other departments. The unit has had difficulty serving more people due to the difficulties associated with securing professional staff. Individual therapy is intensive and groups are operational. Groups include anger management for adults and teens and a parenting group for out-of-control teenagers will commence this summer.

Although the program is now managed by the County, we will be paying the contractor for the cost of a therapist, clerical support, a parent advocate and miscellaneous office expenses.

The May revision of the Governor's budget shows elimination of the CSOC program. My staff and I have met to form strategies and explore ways to keep this vital program operating. The most effective way to continue operations is to integrate CSOC into Child Welfare. My staff has been given instructions to outline a plan of action for the integration of CSOC should the elimination of the program come to fruition. It is hoped that through a letter writing and personal contact campaign the program will only face a reduction in funding and not elimination.

Included in this agreement (Attachment I) are programs delivered by Kings View that include 24-hour psychiatric emergency response, forensic services in the jail, services to the severely mentally ill (including psychotropic medication), counseling for individuals
and families, and a subcontract to the MACT Board for services to the Native American community.

2. Substance Abuse/Alcohol and Drug Services: Agreement Amount $565,039

Services provided under this agreement (Attachment II) include ongoing substance abuse programs, perinatal program, and DUI private pay programs.

Alcohol and Drug Services enjoys a relatively new supervisor who is dedicated to the field of recovery. Individual and group services are provided on an outpatient basis in Mariposa while residential treatment is subcontracted. All programs, including Proposition 36, are linked to Drug Court, the recovering community such as AA, NA and Alanon, probation and other providers.

There have been discussions about opening a 24-hour residential facility in Mariposa but Human Services is not ready to undertake such an endeavor at this time. Further, there is sometimes the need for people to remove themselves from the situation entirely which out-of-county residential services provides. Between residential treatment and outpatient, some individuals would benefit from a half way house and the Advisory Boards are in favor of such a program. If a qualified contractor were to open such an interim facility in this County, Human Services would ask for your Board’s permission to use such a facility.

Services and numbers of people to be served, as well as the budget, are outlined in Exhibits A and B of the agreement.

3. Proposition 36, Substance Abuse And Crime Prevention Act: Contract of $176,790

After your Board’s approval, Proposition 36 was implemented. The purpose of that legislation was to decriminalize certain non-violent drug offenses by providing community based non-residential and residential drug treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. This program was recently expanded to include extensive drug testing procedures as legislated in SB223. Group therapy sessions for clients and families are held at the new Heritage House, which is very comfortable and inviting place that welcomes clients and their families. The treatment group for young children of addicted parents is to be activated within the next three (3) months at Heritage House. This activity is part of the Proposition 36 Plan and update approved by the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, your Board and the State.

The agreement is attached (Attachment III).

4. Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Agreement; Amount $78,047

This is a grant that expires on June 30, 2002. The contractor may very well decide to reapply for this money.

5. CalWORKs Mental Health and Alcohol & Drug: Agreement Amount 136,936
The social service unit wishes to continue contracting with Kings View for alcohol and drug and mental health counseling for welfare-to-work clients who have barriers to employment. The individual cost of service has been high, $150 per hour, but the contractor is making efforts to reduce these costs by providing more services and tracking service components such as community outreach.

**FINANCIAL**

Contractual agreements total $2,121,470. With the exception of $4,036 of general fund money for maintenance of effort purposes, state and federal revenue support all appropriations.

Revenue and expenditures for FY 2001/2002 were anticipated and budgeted. Further, mid year adjustments were made and the agreements before your Board reflect these adjustments. Program expansion, such as 24-hour response to psychiatric emergencies, was made possible through salary savings and other cost efficiencies.

The County and the contractor must make every effort to increase revenue to provide needed services to our community. Due to the State’s budgetary difficulties, Alcohol and Drug revenues are projected to be reduced 10% in FY 02/03. There is a way to bill Drug MediCal. The contractor has been informed that an attempt must be made to bill for all eligible services; not only in the drug arena but throughout the system.

When the County took over Children’s System of Care, the new supervisor hired from Fresno County, was able to increase Medi-Cal billings by 54%. She was able to do this by opening cases and completing the necessary paper work. This approach, opening cases on all family members rather than on just one member of the family, will be expected of the contractor throughout the larger program. This will keep one member of the family from being identified as the “patient” while it allows billing for actual services provided to each family member.

We will be exploring methods to continue to bill Medi-Cal even if this program is eliminate be the state. Your board will be kept advised of the impact of the state budget on this particular program.