MEETING: July 14, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Eric Sergienko, Health Officer/Acting HHSA Director

RE: Agreement with Berliner-Cohen Attorneys at Law to Represent HHSA in Juvenile Dependency Cases

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve an Agreement with Berliner-Cohen Attorneys at Law, to represent Mariposa County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) in juvenile dependency and public guardian/conservatorship cases and any other matter County Counsel deems appropriate in an amount not to exceed $100,000; and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the Agreement.

In past years, County Counsel's office provided much of these services. Due to workload and availability, it was determined that a direct contract with Berliner-Cohen would benefit HHSA. Berliner-Cohen will provide legal services in juvenile dependency and public guardian/conservatorship cases. County Counsel will determine when it is necessary for Berliner-Cohen to act for HHSA in Child Welfare cases and any other matter County Counsel deems appropriate.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The most recent agreement with Berliner-Cohen was approved through Resolution No. 2019-396 on July 9, 2019.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If this contract is not approved, the workload for the County Counsel's office may be such that it creates process delays.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
There is sufficient funding in the HHSA Budget to fund this Agreement. There is no impact to the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:
Berliner Cohen Agreement 2021 - Wcsignature  (PDF)
Resolution - Action Requested 2020-405

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey