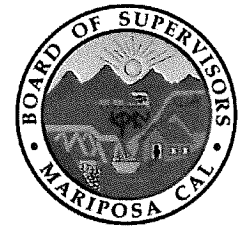


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Child Support Services · (866) 901-3212



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-198**

MEETING: April 26, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Debbie Walton, Child Support Services Director

RE: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Establishing the Merced-Mariposa Regional Department

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Merced-Mariposa Regional Department of Child Support Services effective May 1, 2016; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the MOU. Since its development the State Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has encouraged local child support agencies to consider opportunities for consolidation for program efficiencies. With the upcoming retirement of Mariposa's County Child Support Director the timing was right to discuss a consolidation of the administrative functions of the two agencies. A consolidation with Merced DCSS was considered because it would build upon an existing relationship already established between the two agencies. Currently Merced DCSS answers Mariposa's phone calls and provides general case and payment information to customers, and provides back up legal support.

Meetings were held with the County Executive Officer (CEO) of Merced County, the County Administrative Officer (CAO) of Mariposa County, staff from State DCSS, the Merced DCSS Director, the Mariposa DCSS Director and collective bargaining units representing staff from both agencies. It has been determined that the consolidation of the administrative functions of the Mariposa and Merced agencies will result in increased efficiencies and cost effectiveness for the agencies.

Through negotiations and a template provided by State DCSS, the attached MOU was developed. The newly created regional department, managed by Merced County, offers the resources of a larger program to Mariposa County and provides a single point of contact and authority for the DCSS. This MOU creates two separate and distinct departments under an administrative umbrella of regionalization, with all administrative components related to the regionalized department being performed by the lead county, Merced. Consolidating administrative services of the two counties will leverage funding for both agencies, allowing them to better weather increased costs of doing business, or reallocation or cuts in funding.

It is recommended and requested that this Board approve the MOU establishing the

Merced-Mariposa Regional Department of Child Support Services and establishing that the Director of the Merced County Department of Child Support Services shall serve as the Regional Director.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

In 1999 new legislation reformed California's child support program. The newly established State (DCSS) is to provide program oversight of the local county agencies for Child Support Services and charged the Director with the responsibility of increasing collections and improving services to families. The legislation also provided opportunity for counties to consolidate into a regional agency when DCSS and the impacted counties determined that this would increase the efficiency of the program, provided each county has at least one local child support office accessible to the public (Family Code Section 17304(a)). Currently there are six other regional child support agencies throughout California.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve the MOU and give further direction. A new Director would need to be hired in May 2016. Not pursuing regionalization with Merced could put current Mariposa county agency employees in jeopardy as State funding has been flat for 13 years while salary, benefits and cost of doing business has increased. The increased costs must be absorbed in the current funding unless the County is willing to provide General Fund support. Currently the department does not receive any General Fund support.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**There is no Financial impact to the General Fund**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**MMRDCSS\_MOU\_040516 (PDF)**

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Mary Hodson, CAO 4/20/2016

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier