



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

November 26, 2014

Ms. Kim Pearson, Division Manager
Child Protective Services Division
Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 269057
Sacramento, CA 95826

Dear Ms. Pearson:

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO AMEND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
NO. 10-6021 BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
SERVICES (CDSS) AND SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGARDING THE
RESIDENTIALLY BASED SERVICES (RBS) REFORM PILOT PROJECT**

This letter is in response to the requests from Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services Division communicated to CDSS in an email dated July 18, 2014 and a letter received September 3, 2014 to amend MOU No. 10-6021 between CDSS and Sacramento County (Parties) regarding the operation of the county's RBS Reform Pilot Project. The email contained "recommendations" for modifications to the County Annual Report (CAR). While the subsequent letter gave the impression that the county requests contained therein were contingent upon the "recommendations" in the earlier email, a conversation on November 17, 2014 with John Sanfilippo, Chief of the Foster Care Rates Bureau, and Sacramento County made it clear that there is no contingency. Therefore, Sacramento County requests the following amendments to the MOU¹:

1. MOU No. 10-6021, Section C, Term, Page 2 – Extension of the term of this MOU January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.
2. MOU No. 10-6021, Attachment I, Exhibit I, Voluntary Agreement, #3.1 Target Population, Page 19 – broaden the RBS referral criteria/population served to include all youth between the ages 12-16 that would otherwise require an RCL 12-14 placement.

Pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 18987.72 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC), this letter, in concert with your requests made in the communications noted above, shall constitute mutual consent of the Parties to make "amendments, modifications, and extensions" to the MOU No. 10-6021 as set forth herein. Such "amendments, modifications, and extensions" are in consideration of information provided for in the annual evaluation report, prepared pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c)² jointly by the county and the private nonprofit agency; and on the experience and information acquired from the implementation and ongoing operation of the program(s).

¹ Note that the issue of commingling was addressed in RBS Letter 02-14 to all participating RBS counties.

² All statutory references are to W&IC §18987.72, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Request number 1 is granted. Your request to extend the term of this MOU to be effective January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016 is granted as provided for in subdivision (f), which allows for extension of the MOU through July 1, 2016.

Request number 2 is granted. Your request to broaden the RBS target population by amending the referral criteria/population served to include all youth between the ages 12-16, that would otherwise require an RCL 12-14 placement, is granted for the remainder of the pilot through the extended date of July 1, 2016.

The granting of your request is based on county assurances set forth in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), that it will continue to observe its obligations under the alternative funding model to ensure that care is provided at a reasonable cost to the public; payment levels are sufficient to provide for the needs of children in care; cost-control measures are in place to ensure the most cost-effective means for positive outcomes are employed; to provide for effective oversight and fiscal accountability; and to facilitate the ability of the private nonprofit agencies to access other available public sources of funding and services to meet the needs of the children or youth placed.

In addition, pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d), the county will continue to offer a worthwhile test of the pilot objectives; monitor compliance; and offset the higher Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care rate by "cost efficiencies achieved through shorter lengths of stay in foster care or a reduction of reentries into foster care, as a result of providing pre-discharge support and post-discharge services to the children or youth and their families."

Finally, the county shall respect the intent of the legislature "that no child or youth in foster care reside in group care for longer than one year;" and shall comply with reporting requirements for children in group care for over one year pursuant to W&IC §16010.8.

All other terms and conditions of MOU No. 10-6021 remain in full force and effect. The County must currently be in compliance with all the terms of the MOU, including outstanding and ongoing requests for documentation and information; and must remain compliant with the MOU throughout the entire term. This amendment, consisting of the September 3, 2014 county letter and this response, is hereby attached to and incorporated into MOU No. 10-6021 as Attachment 1, Exhibit 6.

Please note that the email "recommendations" related to the CAR modifications, while not a part of this amendment, will be considered along with suggested amendments to the CAR from all of the RBS participating counties. The CDSS has received suggested amendments to the CAR from all of the RBS counties and is in the process of review and consideration. Any modification to the CAR will be provided by CDSS to all RBS participating counties in one letter.

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Should you have any questions regarding the RBS Reform Pilot Project or MOU No. 10-6021, you may contact Cheryl Treadwell, Chief of the Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch, at (916) 651-9152 or you may contact me at (916) 657-2614.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory E. Rose', written in a cursive style.

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosures

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bc: Cheryl Treadwell, Chief, FCARB, M.S. 8-11-38
John Sanfilippo, Chief, FCRB, M.S. 8-11-38
Nancy Littlefield, Manager, Rates Unit, M.S. 8-11-74
Christina Hing, AGPA, Rates Unit, M.S. 8-11-74
Vincent Richardson, Research Program Analyst II, M.S. 8-11-38
Penny Caryl-Davis, Attorney III, M.S. 8-5-161
Susan Diedrich, Senior Assistant Chief Counsel, M.S. 8-11-38