



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](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

November 26, 2014

Philip L. Browning, Director  
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services  
425 Shatto Place, Suite 602  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Mr. Browning:

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO AMEND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
NO. 10-6020 BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
SERVICES (CDSS) AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REGARDING  
THE RESIDENTIALLY BASED SERVICES (RBS) REFORM PROJECT**

This letter is in response to the written request from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services, dated August 28, 2014 and email dated October 29, 2014, to amend MOU No. 10-6020 between the CDSS and the County of Los Angeles (the Parties) regarding the operation of the county's RBS pilot project. The County of Los Angeles requests the following amendments to the MOU:

1. MOU No. 10-6020 section C, Term, Page 2, amend the term of this MOU to be effective July 15, 2010 through July 1, 2016.
2. MOU No. 10-6020, amend the RBS residential rate of \$10,908, eliminating the rate drop after ten months of residential placement, effective December 2, 2014 through July 1, 2016.
3. MOU No. 10-6020, Voluntary Agreement, Page 3, #1, paragraph 3, amend to incorporate the participation of the Probation Foster Youth at any of the three county Los Angeles RBS Open Doors Pilot Contractors.

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 dated August 28 and October 29, shall constitute mutual consent of the Parties to make "amendments, modifications, and extensions" to the MOU No. 10-6020 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)<sup>1</sup> 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).

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<sup>1</sup> 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 July 15, 2010 through July 1, 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 eliminate the time limitation on the payment of the RBS residential rate of \$10,908 after ten months of residential placement is granted for the remainder of the pilot, effective December 2, 2014 through July 1, 2016.

The granting of this 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 assist as needed with compliance of reporting requirements for children in group care for over one year pursuant to W&IC §16010.8.

Request number 3 is granted. Your request to incorporate the participation of the Probation Foster Youth at any of the three county Los Angeles RBS Open Doors Pilot Contractors is granted upon admonition of W&IC §16514 related to the placement together of dependents and wards.

The granting of these requests for amendment, modification, and extension of the Parties' MOU is effective August 28, 2014. The CDSS approves the amendments as described above pursuant to the statutory conditions cited herein.

Mr. Philip Browning  
MOU No.10-6020  
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All other terms and conditions of MOU No. 10-6020 remain in full force and effect. These waivers are effective if and when the County is in compliance with all the terms of the current MOU, including all submissions requested by CDSS; and so long as the County remains compliant with the MOU and CDSS requests throughout the term of the MOU. This amendment, consisting of the August 28, 2014 county letter, the October 29, 2014 email and this response, is hereby attached to and incorporated into MOU NO. 10620 as Attachment 1, Exhibit 11.

Should you have any questions regarding the RBS Reform Project or MOU No. 10-6020, 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosures