

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

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For the Agenda of:
June 15, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report Back on the Cost for IHSS Social Worker Units

Supervisory
District: All

Contact: Ann Edwards-Buckley, Acting Director, 875-2002

BACKGROUND

During the June 11, 2009 Budget Hearing, the Department of Health and Human Services was requested to report back on what would be the cost for restoration of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) social worker units.

DISCUSSION

One case-carrying social worker unit in the IHSS program consists of 1.0 FTE Human Services Supervisor and 9.0 FTE Human Services Social Workers, for a cost of \$823,582. The net county cost is estimated at 48.76%, or \$401,579, for each unit.

If the County is unable to provide funds for the restoration of social workers in the mandated IHSS program, the department proposes a shift of County general funds from the Adoptions and Foster Home Licensing (FHL) programs, non-mandated programs within the Child Protective Services (CPS) Division, to cover the cost. The total amount of County general funds budgeted in these non-mandated CPS programs is \$1,125,418. If the funds were shifted to the mandated IHSS program, nearly 3 social worker units could be restored. This will increase the likelihood of a successful implementation of the IHSS Work plan to reduce costs in the provider payment account presented to the Board.

The reduction impacts to CPS would be:

- Loss of more than 2 social worker units in the Adoptions program and 2.5 FTE social workers in the Foster Home Licensing (FHL) program
- Increased time to finalize adoptions and delay permanency for children
- Other CPS program caseloads will increase
- Increased County costs due to children remaining in the CPS system
- Less recruitment and oversight of foster parents
- Annual home evaluations will revert to State standard leaving children more at risk
- Fewer County foster parents and more reliance on more expensive Foster Family Agencies

Respectfully submitted,

ANN EDWARDS-BUCKLEY, Acting Director
Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

By: _____
JAMES HUNT, Acting Administrator
Countywide Services Agency