

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Children's System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Richard S. Knecht, M.S., Director of Children's System of Care

DATE: November 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Adoption Awareness Month

ACTION REQUESTED:

Proclaim by Resolution, November 2007 as Adoption Awareness Month in Placer County.

BACKGROUND:

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. On any given day in Placer County, as many as 300 children are living away from their parents in either a foster family or relative's home. Over 50% of all children in foster care are over ten years old.

Nine years ago, Placer County Children's System of Care and Sierra Adoption Services established a special partnership called "Placer Kids" to ensure timely permanent solutions for children in our foster care system. This partnership has been extremely successful, receiving State and national recognition as a model for private/public partnership. The real success has been in the number of adopted children and the families ready and able to adopt. In FY1996-97, only eight children in Placer County were placed in loving adoptive homes; in FY2006-07, 54 children were placed.

Since the partnership began, over 1,800 local families have called Placer Kids to learn more, and 470 have completed training to become foster and adoptive families for our waiting children. In every category of service, we now have more families ready and able to provide needed care. This includes families available for older children, sibling groups, and those with special needs. While many challenges remain, we are better meeting the needs of children who come into our local foster care system; and together with families, we are accomplishing more each year for the children in greatest need.

This year, National Adoption Day is on November 17, 2007. Placer County and the Placer Kids program will celebrate this event, on this date, at the Historic Courthouse in Auburn, with Judge Colleen Nichols and Commissioner John Ross presiding over the finalization of what we hope will be ten adoption hearings. This event is open to the public, as well as foster and adoptive families who have been personally invited. Following the hearings, there will be music, guest speakers, and activities for the children, breakfast, and other "goodies" for our families, children, and guests. It promises to be a very special event that everyone will enjoy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of the approval of the Adoption Awareness Month resolution. The planned Adoption Day activities are financed with approximately \$500 in budgeted State and federal adoption program funding, with the balance of the costs being covered by private donations.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

**A Resolution in support of November
2007 as Adoption Awareness Month in
Placer County.**

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **November 6, 2007** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, every child needs someone who will provide them caring, loving support; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 children in California and over 500 each year in Placer County are in the foster system because of violence, abuse and neglect, and other extreme family problems; and

WHEREAS, Placer County and Sierra Adoption Services have forged a unique public/private partnership called Placer Kids to ensure the waiting children in our community have the foster and adoptive families they need; and

WHEREAS, Placer Kids has drawn in over 1,800 Placer County families to learn about becoming adoptive and foster parents; and

WHEREAS, 400 of Placer County's waiting children have been adopted into forever-families since Placer Kids began, and more than 50 other Placer County families are now working towards the adoption of a waiting child; and

WHEREAS, even more families are needed to care for each and every child who waits.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE DO HEREBY PROCLAIM November 2007 to be Adoption Awareness Month in Placer County, in which we shall remember the waiting children, spread the word about the need, and encourage all who might consider adoption or foster care to come forward and be there for the children.