June 18, 2013

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

PROPOSED RETROACTIVE AGREEMENT WITH MDRC FOR EVALUATION OF THE MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM
(Fiscal Impact: $22,000 (FY 2012-13 $15,000) Revenue; Grant; Not Budgeted; Discretionary)

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board's approval of the proposed retroactive Agreement with MDRC for evaluation of the Public Health Services Department's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program from February 15, 2013 through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed $22,000. This Agreement is brought to your Board retroactively due to unforeseen delays in the negotiation of the terms of the Agreement.

This Agreement will allow multiple participants, consisting of MDRC staff and consultants, academics from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Georgia, and researchers from Mathematica Policy and Research and James Bell Associates to form a study team and evaluate the effectiveness of the Department's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. This evaluation will provide information to help states and other jurisdictions to develop and strengthen home visiting programs in the future. The funding from this Agreement will offset expenses related to travel for training and staff time spent gathering administrative data and assisting clients in the enrollment process.

As an additional incentive of this Agreement, the Department will be provided gift cards upon completion of two surveys. The Department is requesting the authorization for the Director of Public Health Services to accept these gift cards and use them to purchase incentives for clients. These incentives will include items such as diapers, breast-feeding supplies, educational infant toys, and baby blankets.

This Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED your Board approve and authorize the Director of Public Health Services to sign the proposed retroactive Agreement with MDRC for evaluation of the Department's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, from February 15, 2013 through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed $22,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Constantine
Director of Public Health Services

MC: bnm: dw
Attachments
C: Each Supervisor
   County Administrative Office