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CONTRA COSTA

MENTAL HEALTH

CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE

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Memorandum – Executive Brief

To: Family and Human Services Committee

From: Donna Wigand

Mental Health Director

By: Vern Wallace

Child and Adolescent Program Chief

Date: December 6, 2010

Re: Update and Sustainability of the Seneca Residential Program (C5 Residential).

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**SUBJECT:**

Update to the Family and Human Services Committee regarding the Seneca C-5 Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Request the Family and Human Services Committee accept this report on the C-5 program operated by Seneca Center.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Cost Neutral. The cost of the program remains the same on a cost per child basis. As a result of the changes at the state level the program going forward will only be able to accept MediCal youngsters. However, the daily cost per child exceeds all current reimbursements and the provider is working to reduce this cost to the lowest possible level. Previously this money, referred to as "match," was claimed to the SB 90 mandate claim from the AB3632 program, and was available for cost reimbursement. However, in order to maintain a youth in this placement the additional daily dollars will have to be funded from some other source or the cost will have to be reduced in some way.

As a result, we are proposing to reduce the daily Contra Costa enrollment in the program to eight MediCal youngsters. A daily "patch" of county dollars will be required in order to continue to sustain the placements for these very troubled youngsters. Overall costs will be reduced. In addition to the eight Contra Costa youth the vendor will offer eight beds to surrounding counties at a slightly higher daily rate. Additionally, other counties will be charged a user fee of \$125.00 per day to offset the Contra Costa Day rate and patch. However, the program may still be underfunded and could require some county contribution of funds in order to be sustainable. Without this program Contra Costa will be forced to place youngsters at great distance from their home, with some out-of-state, and with greater emotional cost to the families.



## **BACKGROUND:**

The Health Services Department, Mental Health Division, has been providing services to children at the Oak Grove facility in Concord through a contract with Seneca since 1999. Mental Health, along with its interagency System of Care partners, has fought to maintain services at the facility. Current changes in the state budget and the availability of additional funding sources once again challenge the sustainability of the program... This program includes step down, or community re-entry programming, Intensive treatment foster care, and a number of best practice models of service delivery. It will continue to enhance the current children's system of care and maintain Contra Costa as one of the leading providers of Children's mental health services in the nation. Not sustaining this program could lead to greater cost to the County and families of Contra Costa.

## **CURRENT**

Today there are 15 Contra Costa youngsters at the C5 program. Most of these youngsters will require intense mental health services and out of home placement. Some will go home, but some will live a life in care, with many remaining in the Mental Health Adult System of Care.

