

DEPARTMENT: Human Services Dept. BY: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly
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RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes___ No X)

It is respectfully recommended that your Board authorize us to contract with Ms. Diana Adams, a retired social worker, for assistance with the In Home Supportive Services Program.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides assistance to eligible aged (over 65), blind and disabled adults who are unable to remain safely in their own homes without assistance. Services can include personal care, housekeeping, shopping, transportation to medical appointments and protective supervision for the mentally impaired. Such assistance is an alternative to long term care living situations. The program is paid for by state, federal and local funds.

There are approximately 160 persons being served by IHSS in this County at any given time. The program is currently under intensive supervision and corrective action is being undertaken. The program had a 100% error rate that places the county at risk of audit exception. One of our best managers, Debbie Smith, has accepted responsibility for this program which is outside of her normal duties.

IHSS is a social service program with eligibility requirements. Ms. Smith has a great deal of expertise with eligibility programs but she needs a social worker to accomplish the assessments on particular clients. We are recruiting for social workers and do not have social service staff able to assume responsibility for client assessments.

We need to hire someone to provide social service assessments under the supervision of Ms. Smith. We have outreached to a person willing to assist the agency through a contract.

We would like to hire Diana Adams, who is a very competent and capable retired Social Worker III. Ms. Adams was previously employed by the Department of Human Services for a period of eleven (11) years. She worked in our Employment and Training Unit. During Ms. Adams tenure with the Mariposa County she consistently produced high quality work.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

There are several alternatives available in lieu of this contract. This County could elect to halt program operations until such time that we have adequate social service staff, which is approximately 3-6 months from now. That date is problematic because new social workers are needed first in Children's Protective Services. The difficulty with program discontinuance is that it would place many of our seniors and disabled adults in situations that would require them to enter residential facilities rather than continue living in their own homes. Another alternative would be to continue to pay for client care without seeing them and properly establishing eligibility for the program. This could result in clients not receiving services we are paying for as well as place the County at high risk of very costly audit exceptions.

