



MARIPOSA COUNTY

HHS/Social Services · (209) 966-2000



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-396

MEETING: July 9, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chevon Kothari, Health and Human Services Director

RE: Agreement with Berliner-Cohen Attorneys at Law to Represent MCHSD in Juvenile Dependency Cases

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve an Agreement with Berliner-Cohen Attorneys at Law, to represent Mariposa County Health and Human Services Department in juvenile dependency and public guardian/conservatorship cases and any other matter County Counsel deems appropriate in an amount not to exceed \$60,000; and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the Agreement.

In past years, County Counsel's office provided much of these services. Due to workload and availability, it was determined that a direct contract with Berliner-Cohen would benefit Health and Human Services. Berliner-Cohen will provide legal services in juvenile dependency and public guardian/conservatorship cases. County Counsel will determine when it is necessary for Berliner-Cohen to act for the Human Services Department in Child Welfare cases and any other matter County Counsel deems appropriate.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Mariposa County has an existing agreement with Berliner-Cohen, approved through Resolution No. 2018-458 on September 25, 2018.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If this contract is not approved, the workload for the County Counsel's office may be such that it creates process delays.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

**There is sufficient funding in the Social Services Budget to fund this Agreement.
There is no impact to the County General Fund.**

ATTACHMENTS:

Berliner Cohen Agreement 2020v2 (PDF)

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RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey