

May 10, 2004

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SUTTER COUNTY PARENT NETWORK REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FUNDING

BACKGROUND: The Sutter County Children & Families Commission, herein after referred to as Commission, issued a Request for Proposal for Direct Services Grants on December 18, 2001. The Sutter County Parent Network (SCPN) applied for and was awarded funding for a planning grant and for a 2 year direct services grant to provide services to special needs children and their families. The Sutter County Parent Network has received funding from your Commission during fiscal years 02-03 and 03-04. The current grant period ends June 30, 2004.

It is the intent of the Commission to allocate funding to new and existing projects that enhance services to young children 0-5 and their families through innovative and integrated approaches. In allocating such funding all service providers were instructed to develop funding sources to sustain programs as funds from the Commission would not be available after 24 months.

April 2, 2004, the Commission received correspondence (attached) from the Sutter County Parent Network requesting continued funding for fiscal year 04-05 to maintain the services established in the 02-03 and 03-04 years.

The SCPN has developed program elements to address the Commission established focus areas of Parent Education and Support Services, specifically Objective 2 in the SCCFC 03-06 Strategic Plan – assist service providers to expand resources and support for parents of children with special needs.

The SCPN was evaluated by Duerr Evaluation Resources as required by the Commission and the evaluation reflects the following conclusions:

- For the 52 clients for whom matched pre to post test assessments were obtained by SCPN, there is very strong evidence that the program was successful in fostering positive change for special needs children in these areas: early care and education, health and wellness, parent education and parent self-care.
- At least 88 young children received direct services through the SCPN Special Needs program. Also, 75% of those clients had an Individual Case Plan developed and almost half had accessed one or more referrals to early intervention services.
- Ten children were referred for speech services. 28 children enrolled in preschool.
- Assessment data provided strong evidence that most parents served by the program are now better prepared to care for their special needs children. This suggests that they may now have a better chance of keeping their children at home rather than needing institutional placement.

- Overall, it can be concluded that the program was quite successful in helping families with special needs children.

CURRENT PROPOSAL: The Sutter County Parent Network is requesting \$122,331.21 for fiscal year 04-05 to continue its services to Children with Special Needs and their families.

RECOMMENDATION: The executive director recommends to the Commission that the funding request of the Sutter County Parent Network be approved in the amount of \$100,000 with the following requirements:

1. SCPN actively seek and apply for other funding resources to support personnel, operations and programming.
2. SCPN shall consider the funding from SCCFC as a "safety net" for personnel, operations and programming expenses.
3. SCPN shall notify SCCFC of all other funding secured for the program.
4. SCPN will actively seek additional collaborative partners in funding and program operations.
5. SCPN shall submit an overall operating budget showing all costs and revenues received for SCPN for the 03-04 budget year and audit for the 03-04 budget year, if available by July 1, 2004.
6. SCPN shall submit a Scope of Work and complete operating budget for fiscal year 04/05.
7. SCPN shall complete a Commission required performance based report and financial report quarterly, and submit it to the Commission as required.
8. SCPN understands funding for the current request is for fiscal year 2004-2005.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES: \$100,000.00

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of executive director's recommendation.

DC:bd