

January 20, 2005

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FUNDING FOR THE SMART START PROGRAM SUMMER 2005

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Sutter County Children and Families Commission indicate its willingness to fund the Smart Start program for the Summer 2005 program (FY05/06). The attached documents include a proposed budget and narrative. The Summer 2005 program will increase to nine classes-April Lane, Bridge Street, Brittain, King Avenue, Luther (2 classes), Park, West Walton and one class in the South County.

BACKGROUND:

Kindergarten readiness was selected by the Sutter County Children and Families Commission as one of the focus areas for further research and investigation for need of services. This focus was based on the evaluation of previously Commission funded Smart Start programs, discussions and surveys of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten teachers, and discussions at the State First Five Commission regarding the importance of "being ready to learn".

The Sutter County Children and Families Commission has directly supported the Smart Start program for the past three fiscal years. The evaluation of this program from Duerr Evaluation Resources has shown the participation by children in Smart Start has created a positive attitude toward education in the families of the students, a high degree of change in the social development and willingness to separate from their parents by the children, high parent satisfaction of the program, gains by children in seven areas of ECE pre and post assessment, positive gains in the Walker Survey (determines level of change in behavioral adjustments) by enrolled children and experienced a high degree of satisfaction with assistance in health related issues.

As the Commission moves towards the strategic goal of school readiness, the expansion of the Smart Start program to 9 locations throughout Sutter County would offer the program to approximately 180 children.

CURRENT PROPOSAL:

It is requested the Commission allocate a maximum of \$175,000 for the 2005 Summer Smart Start Program(FY 05/06).

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES:

\$175,000

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of recommendation.

DC:bd