

March 17, 2005

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION
FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: TRANSITION BACK PACKS

BACKGROUND:

The Kindergarten Transition back pack project provides a universal opportunity to provide pre-school materials to all children through the age of 5 and encourage parent interaction with their children.

The initial purchase of 1000 backpacks have been distributed through several venues including school readiness coordinators at Bridge, King and Park Avenue schools, Bright Futures, kindergarten registration events and Smart Start. The evaluation of the back pack parent surveys from Duerr Evaluation (submitted at the 10-04 Commission meeting) reported that 93% of the parents reported their children were "very" interested in the backpack's items. Almost 50% of the parents reported daily use of the backpack by their children. 74% of parents reported the quality of the items as excellent. Duerr Evaluations conclusion stated "High parental satisfaction with the quality and usefulness of the backpack, combined with high enthusiasm and heavy usage by the children clearly shows that the back pack program has been successful in providing an additional tool to make the transition to kindergarten more successful."

The purchase of additional backpacks will ensure that kindergarten students for September 2005 can be given a backpack when they register for school. The manufacturer of the backpacks needs 120 days lead time to assemble the packs. In order to have them ready for this summer and fall distribution we need to submit payment prior to the 05/06 FY.

CURRENT PROPOSAL:

It is requested the Commission approve the \$40,000 funding (previously approved for FY 05/06) for the purchase of 1000 backpacks in the 04/05 FY.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Executive Director to purchase the additional 1000 backpacks approved by the Commission at the January 2005 meeting out funds from the 04/05 FY.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES: \$40,000 for FY 04/05

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of recommendation.

DC:bd