

April 12, 2007

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 FY 2007-2008

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 four 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. The Smart Start program increases the number of children able to access quality early education programs meeting the Sutter County Children & Families Commission Strategic Plan Objective for Improved Child Development (page 15 07/10).

CURRENT PROPOSAL:

The attached proposal documents include a proposed budget and scope of work. There are two budget proposal options

- Option One - Nine sites – King Avenue – 2 classes, Bridge, West Walton, Barry, Central Gaither, Brittan, Luther – 2 classes
- Option Two - Ten sites – King Ave – 2 classes, Bridge, West Walton, Barry, Central Gaither, Brittan, Luther – 2 classes and Lincoln Elementary School

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 Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES: 9 Smart Start Sites – Maximum of \$238,125.00
10 Smart Start Sites – Maximum of \$253,230.00

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of recommendation.

DC:bd