

STAFF REPORT

March 14, 2003

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO FUND A CHILD DEVELOPMENT BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST

RECOMMENDATION: It is the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Commission approve funding the Child Development Behavioral Specialist for five years.

BACKGROUND: See attached Child Development Behavior Specialist job description.

A survey of several childcare providers indicates that about one in ten (ten percent) of children receiving childcare exhibit difficult behaviors. Sutter County has an estimated 3,250 children, ages 0-5 with working parents. If only these children are considered, 325 children could benefit from the assistance of a skilled behavior specialist.

The Behavior Specialist would be available to serve all residents of Sutter County with children under the age of six. In most cases, difficult behavior can be corrected by improving the skills and understanding of the adults that interact with the child and establishing a plan to modify the behavior. In some cases, the child may need to be referred for specialized services.

Benefits:

- ❖ Parents and caregivers have better skills for coping with the child's behavior while enhancing the child's self-esteem, self-control, and sense of competence.
- ❖ Children are ready to learn and interact well with other children.
- ❖ Providers are supported to maintain children in their care.
- ❖ Specialist assists in developing a coordinated approach with parents, caregivers and/or teachers.
- ❖ Relationships between parents and children are improved.
- ❖ Parents and teachers are supported in their efforts to deal constructively with very challenging children.
- ❖ Children in need of specialized mental health treatment or services for developmental disabilities receive earlier referrals, reducing the likelihood of school failure.

CURRENT PROPOSAL: It is requested that the Commission approve the child Development Behavioral Specialist position.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES:

Rough cost estimate:

Year One	Salary and benefits	\$80,000
	Supplies, phone, expenses	20,000
	Initial start-up (equipment, etc)	20,000
	TOTAL	\$120,000
Year Two	Salary and benefits	\$80,000
	Supplies, phone, expenses	20,000
	TOTAL	\$100,000

Continuation of funding year three through year five to be based on utilization review. Cost would be likely to increase five to ten percent, assuming that the position continued on a similar, full-time basis.

\$120,000/year one, \$100,000 to \$120,000/years two-five. Total approximately \$530,000.

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the recommendation.

DC: al