

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

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For the Agenda of:
June 15, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report Back On a Cost Comparison of Birth and Beyond, Nurse Family Partnership and Placement in Foster Care

Contact: Ann Edwards-Buckley, Acting Director, 875-2002

BACKGROUND

During the June 2nd, 2009 Child Death Review Team report, the Department of Health and Human Services was requested to report back on a cost comparison of Birth and Beyond and the Nurse Family Partnership programs to the cost of placements in foster care.

DISCUSSION

The cost for placing a child in foster care, including direct payments to the provider as well as CPS administrative costs, is \$12,504 annually.

The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence based, intense nurse visitation program for low income, first time pregnant and parenting mothers. The visits begin during pregnancy and continue until the child is 2 years of age, with an average of 42 home visits being provided over the time that a family is in the program. Since the inception of the program in 2001, no child served by the program has died due to abuse. Families who received NFP home visitation services have no prior history with CPS since they are all first time parents. 100% of families had no CPS involvement after participation in the Nurse Family Partnership.

There are 420 children served annually by the program. The cost of the NFP program per child, including Public Health administrative costs, is \$2,367 annually.

Birth and Beyond is a home visitation program that uses Americorps volunteers that have received training and are supported by professional staff. In addition, Birth and Beyond runs Family Resource centers in community-based organizations where families can obtain referrals to services, parenting classes and other benefits. 88% of families with no prior history with CPS, including many first time parents, had no CPS involvement after participating in Birth & Beyond.

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Birth and Beyond calculates that 3,908 children annually have an open case for at least one day in the home visitation program. An additional 1,836 children have been served at some time during the year by a Family Resource center. The annual cost of Birth and Beyond per child touched by the program is \$419. (**Note:** Foster care and Nurse Family Partnership costs are a cost per child served as opposed to cost per child touched.)

Attached is a spreadsheet with greater detail on each program.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
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County Executive

ANN EDWARDS-BUCKLEY, Acting Director
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By: _____
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