



Bryce Yokomizo
Director

July 2, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

Bryce Yokomizo

SUBJECT: LEARNING DISABILITIES SCREENING AND EVALUATION IN THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM

This is to provide you with an update on the progress of the Learning Disabilities Screening and Evaluation program and contracting efforts, in accordance with your Board motion of December 11, 2001.

In my Department's January 28, 2002 communication to the Board, we informed you of our intent to enter into contracts with interested community colleges for the learning disabilities (LD) evaluation/diagnosis. In February 2002, my Department informed you of our intent to enter into sole source contracts of \$250,000 or greater with 13 Community Colleges.

Due to budget constraints, my Department reduced available funding for the program from \$6 million to \$4 million. We asked the colleges to submit line item budgets within our revised funding level for their proposals. Subsequent to our February 2002 communication, a total of fifteen colleges expressed an interest in providing evaluation/diagnosis services.

Only three community colleges, Antelope Valley, Citrus and Long Beach City submitted budgets within our funding level. The remaining colleges have either indicated that they are unable to proceed within our budget, offered their original proposal cost, or did not respond. The colleges' original proposals were to provide the services at an average cost of \$2000 per evaluation. An informal survey of some of the other counties revealed an average anticipated cost between \$400 and \$1500 per evaluation. Our contracts would be based on actual costs and not a cost per participant.

We do not believe it is feasible to proceed with contracting with the three colleges, as it would require participants to travel great distances to reach critical services.

California Department of Social Services has extended the implementation date for Learning Disabilities from May 15, 2002 to September 3, 2002 because counties are experiencing difficulties identifying local resources for the evaluations.

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We plan to develop and release an RFP for providing services countywide. I will continue to advise your Board of the progress as the program and contracts are further developed and implemented. Interested community colleges would be able to respond to the RFP and participate in the bidding process.

BY:pc

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors