



**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

**PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW**  
Director

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March 30, 2010

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

# 70-D of MAR 30 2010

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE OF  
THE UNITED CARE, INC., CONTRACT NUMBER 07-021-055  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT:**

Termination for Convenience of the contract with United Care, Inc., Contract Number 07-021-055, for Foster Family Agency (FFA) services.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

- 1) Find that it is in the best interest of the County of Los Angeles that Contract Number 07-021-055 with United Care, Inc., be terminated for convenience in its entirety; and
- 2) Approve the Termination for Convenience of Contract Number 07-021-055 with United Care, Inc., (UCI) for FFA services, as deemed in the best interest of the County, and direct the Department of Children and Family Services to issue a notice of termination for convenience forthwith.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

On or about March 4, 2010, a foster child died while living in a UCI foster home. In the wake of this child's death, the Department of Children and Family Services has placed UCI on a "Do Not Use" status and recommends that the Board of Supervisors find that it is in the County's best interest to terminate its contract with UCI. Contract Number 07-021-055, Part II, Standard Terms and Conditions, Section 35.0, Termination for Convenience, allows termination of the contract when the County deems such action, in its sole discretion, to be in its best interest.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The requested action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 2, Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being, to enrich lives through integrated, cost-effective, and client-centered supportive services.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

United Care, Inc., currently provides FFA foster care placement services for children supervised by the Department of Children and Family Services. At the present time, the Department does not anticipate a financial impact, as placement services for these children will continue to be provided by other contracted FFA providers, State-licensed foster homes, or by relative caregivers. There is no annual contract amount specified in the FFA contract, rather payment is provided at a State established monthly rate for each child placed with the FFA, at a quantity not to exceed the number of youth on UCI's facility license.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On October 21, 2008, your Board adopted the FFA Foster Care Master Contract, effective November 1, 2008, through October 31, 2009, with renewal options through April 30, 2014. Foster Family Agencies recruit, train, and certify foster parents in accordance with the FFA Contract Statement of Work, and their Program Statement as approved by the State. These certified foster parents provide out-of-home care in a family home setting for the population of children who are supervised by the Department.

United Care, Inc., is one of 58 foster family agencies under contract with the County to provide foster family services to foster children. On or about March 4, 2010, a foster child placed in a one of UCI's foster homes died. On March 24, 2010, the Department of Children and Family Services placed UCI on a "Do Not Use" status which means that all children placed with UCI are to be removed from UCI's supervision within a specified period of time. The Department of Children and Family Services intends to remove all placed children from UCI's supervision within the next sixty days, if not significantly sooner.

In light of the foster child's death and a subsequent review of UCI, concerns have emerged regarding the agency's oversight. Consequently, it is recommended that your Board find that it is in the best interest of the County to terminate its contract with UCI in its entirety. The effective date of this Contract Termination will be ninety (90) days after issuance of a notice of termination for convenience.

This Board letter was reviewed by the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel.

This Board letter does not comply with your Board's policy regarding timely filing due to the emergent nature requiring expedited action.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Following approval of this Termination for Convenience, the County will continue to have contracts with 57 (fifty-seven) contractors for FFA services. Child placement disruptions will be minimized by facilitating the transfer of certified foster homes to existing FFA contractors. Some children may already be in the process of transferring to a permanent home or returning to their biological family. Following the termination of this contract, DCFS will coordinate with the Auditor-Controller to work on obtaining payment of all monies due to the County from this FFA Contractor. DCFS will also notify the State of this action.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send a copy of the adopted Board Letter to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services  
Contracts Administration  
Attention: Kimberly Foster, Manager  
425 Shatto Place, Room 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90020
2. Office of the County Counsel  
Social Services Division  
648 Kenneth Hahn of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Suite 602  
Los Angeles, CA 90012
3. Craig Woods, Executive Director  
United Care, Inc.  
3699 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

PSP:LP:am

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller