



The BOSONE/PV/EDC  
Sent by: Loretta M  
Featherston/PV/EDC  
02/10/2009 08:24 AM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Children's Mental Health Services



"Barry Harwell"  
<barry57@directcon.net>  
02/09/2009 05:40 PM

To <bosone@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,  
<bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,  
<bosthree@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,  
<bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,  
<bosfive@co.el-dorado.ca.us>  
cc  
Subject Children's Mental Health Services

Dear Supervisors,

I hope you will consider the attached letter as you make your decisions regarding children's mental health services for our county. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Barry Harwell

Sierra Child and Family Services  
6692 B Merchandise Way  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
530-919-1083



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

# Sierra Child and Family Services

6682 B Merchandise Way Diamond Springs, CA 95619

February 10, 2009

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Supervisors:

Sierra Child and Family Services is a non-profit organization serving El Dorado County for over 20 years. We currently provide residential, educational and community based services for emotionally disturbed and abused children by way of several contracts with the county.

It has come to the attention of many mental health service providers that the board may be considering delaying contract payments or terminating certain contracts for services due to the current budget difficulties facing California. Termination of such contracts would likely lead to termination of services for literally thousands of El Dorado County's most emotionally fragile children. Many of these children have only MediCal as a resource for treatment, and depend upon that treatment to cope with suicidal thoughts and homicidal ideations. Without treatment, these children face great challenges - challenges which in the past they have been unable to meet.

Although the Board's challenges may be large, I am respectfully asking the Board to preserve these services for our most vulnerable children. Terminating contracts or delaying payments to contract providers would, without a doubt, force the closure of several non-profits and the lay-off of hundreds of local employees. More importantly, though, the resulting loss of treatment could prove tragic for countless mentally ill children in our community. These children are depending on our community to help them find their futures.

I know the board is facing a difficult task, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry Harwell  
Executive Director