



Healthy

Caring

Growing

Learning

Connected

www.first5eldorado.com (530) 622-5787

Growing Children, One by One...

MEMO

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Rick Alford, Contracts & Evaluation Coordinator

DATE: September 30, 2011

RE: Best Beginnings Budget and Marshall Childbirth Education Class Scholarship Funding

BACKGROUND:

The Commission approved a total of \$210,000 during FY 11-12 for the Best Beginnings (BB) Initiatives at Barton Memorial and Marshall Hospitals. Both Initiatives offer families scholarships for childbirth education classes. FY 11-12 contracts for the Best Beginnings, including childbirth education class scholarship funding, currently total \$200,000:

- Barton BB = \$85,000 includes \$5,000 for scholarships
- Marshall BB = \$115,000 includes \$1,500 for scholarships

DISCUSSION:

In developing FY 11-12 contracts, Commission staff worked with both hospitals to draft budgets based on FY 10-11 expenditures, prioritizing home visits delivered to families with newborn children, while including as much funding as possible to support scholarships for childbirth education classes. This process resulted significant reductions in funding for Marshall scholarships (from \$10,000 to \$1,500), while the funding for scholarships at Barton was reduced slightly (from \$6,000 to \$5,000).

CONCLUSION:

Increasing the FY 11-12 Marshall Hospital Scholarships contract from \$1,500 to \$5,000 would increase the number of families that are able to access childbirth education classes at Marshall Hospital and increase the number of families that are introduced to the Best Beginnings prior to delivering their newborn child.