

4/2/80

Memorandum 80-26

Subject: Research Consultant Contracts

The staff recommends that the Commission contract with our consultant on adoption, Brigitte M. Bodenheimer of the Law School, UC at Davis, to submit her recommendations concerning the following:

- (1) The Uniform Adoption Act as it will be revised by the Uniform Laws Commissioners.
- (2) The Model State Adoption Act and Model State Adoption Procedures being prepared by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
- (3) The Model Act to Free Children for Permanent Placement prepared for National Center for Child Advocacy, U.S. Children's Bureau, March 1978.
- (4) Other significant legislative and judicial developments that have occurred since 1975.

The Uniform or model acts have already been prepared or are in the process of preparation. The staff believes it would be very useful to have our consultant review the provisions of the acts, to prepare an analysis of the different methods provided in the Uniform and model acts for treating the significant problems in adoption law, and to make recommendations as to the best way to treat those problems.

In view of the limited funds available for consultants' services, we recommend that the contract be for \$2,500 plus \$1,000 for travel in attending Commission meetings when the adoption study is under consideration. This will permit us to request our consultant to attend these meetings. We presently have no funds encumbered to cover travel expenses. Professor Bodenheimer has indicated that she is willing to perform the duties under the proposed contract for the recommended amount. She would commence work on the project toward the end of 1980 with the goal of completing work on the project before the end of 1981. However, the contract would provide a May 15, 1982, deadline for delivery of the contractor's report.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. DeMouilly  
Executive Secretary