

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 8/25/05
Department Name: BOS
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 9/20/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 5 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Susan Rose
Supervisor, 2nd District

STAFF CONTACT: Rachel Couch
Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Approval of Child Care Planning Council documents - set hearing

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set September 27, 2005 as the date for public hearing to consider and approve Child Care Planning Council documents described below.

1. Approve the needs assessment report, entitled *Santa Barbara County: the Status of Early Care and Education*, to be submitted by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council to the California Department of Education, and authorize the Chair to sign the Needs Assessment Form (Attachment A).
2. Approve the Priorities for Subsidized Child Development Program Funding, Santa Barbara County, to be submitted by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council to the California Department of Education, and authorize the Chair to sign the County Priorities Report Form (Attachment B).
3. Approve the report on *The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005: Accomplishments*, to be submitted by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council to the California Department of Education, and authorize the Chair to sign the Report on the Countywide Strategic Plan Accomplishments (Attachment C).

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 7: "A community that fosters the safety and well-being of families and children."

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Santa Barbara County's original Child Care Planning Council ("the Council" or "CCPC") was formed by the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 as a result of the 1990 Federal Omnibus Budget Act. The role of the Council was to develop a local plan and priorities for distribution of the new Federal Child Care Block Grant funds. For its first few years, financial support for the Council's activities was provided entirely through in-kind services donated by the County Office of Education and Council members. Since 1994 the Council has received annual grants from the California Department of Education. Funds provided to the Council are administered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

Since the inception of the CCPC, members have worked to coordinate and plan the delivery of child care services in Santa Barbara County, serve as liaison between the State Department of Education, Child Development Division and the local community, and provide support and training to the Early Childhood Education Community.

Pursuant to the Statutes of 1997, AB 1542, which established California's welfare reform program (CalWORKs), a local Child Care Planning Council must be established in each county (Education Code Chapter 2.3, Sections 8499.3 and 8499). On April 28, 1998, your Board (in conjunction with the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, which has joint authority over the Council) amended the functions, governance, structure, membership and bylaws of the existing Council to conform to the requirements of welfare reform as defined by AB 1542.

Recommendation 1: Child Care Needs Assessment

AB 1542 requires that Child Care Planning Councils conduct a needs assessment of child care every five years. Information to be included must include, but is not limited to, data on supply and demand for subsidized and non-subsidized child care for children of different ages, cost of child care, and numbers of children from special populations. Results of the needs assessment are to be approved by the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools prior to submission to the California Department of Education.

The document, entitled *Santa Barbara County: The Status of Early Care and Education*, reports the findings of the second child care needs assessment, which was conducted by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council in 2004-2005. The report includes all elements required by AB 1542, plus additional demographic information that may impact early care and education needs and other information about programs that support the expansion and improvement of early care and education services countywide. Data and information for the report were gathered from the U.S. Census, local agencies and programs countywide, Council members, and from the public at regional meetings in December 2004 and through public input on the draft document in July 2005. In conclusion, the report identifies critical findings and recommendations for early care and education services in Santa Barbara County. These findings will be the basis for the development of a second five-year countywide plan for early care and education, to be implemented 2006-2010.

William J. Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools, has indicated his approval of the needs assessment by signing the form to be sent to the California Department of Education (see Attachment A.) The approval of

the needs assessment by your Board, as signified by the signature of the Chair on the California Department of Education Needs Assessment Form, is now requested.

Recommendation 2: Priorities for Subsidized Child Development Program Funding

Among the statutory mandates for the Child Care Planning Council is the obligation to determine priority areas for child care and development programs in the county. Education Code Section 8499.5(b)(6) requires Child Care Planning Councils to conduct periodic reviews of need for, and supply of, child care and development programs funded by the California Department of Education. The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council reviews the Priorities every year and presents them to the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools for approval if they are changed.

In March 2005, the Child Care Planning Council appointed an ad hoc committee to review the Priorities by which both existing and new applicants for funding shall be considered. The Priorities Committee used data from multiple sources in reviewing and establishing priorities. The sources included census data on numbers of children by age, numbers of children in families with all parents employed, income of families, numbers of children eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch, numbers of children in kindergartens receiving free or reduced-fee lunch, and supply of state and federal subsidized child care and development spaces. Data gathered was used to determine the Priorities identified in Attachment B. To summarize, Priority 1 is areas within school boundaries where 50-100% of enrolled children are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, Priority 2 is areas within school boundaries where 30-49% of enrolled children are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, and Priority 3 is areas within school boundaries where 0-29% of enrolled children are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch.

The California Department of Education requires the approval of the County Priorities of an authorized representative of your Board and by the Superintendent of Schools. William J. Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools, has indicated his approval of the County Priorities by signing the County Priorities Report Form to be sent to the California Department of Education (see Attachment B.) The approval of the County Priorities by your Board, as signified by the signature of the Chair on the California Department of Education County Priorities Report Form, is now requested.

Recommendation 3: Report on the *Accomplishments of the Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005*

Among the statutory mandates for the Child Care Planning Council is the obligation to prepare a comprehensive long-range county plan for early care and education services. The plan must be developed with input from the community, and the purpose of the plan is to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs. The plan must be reviewed periodically and updated as needed. On August 14, 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved the *Santa Barbra County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005*, prepared by the Child Care Planning Council.

Over the past year the Strategic Plan Committee of the Child Care Planning Council has gathered reports and information to document progress on the achievement of the Strategic Outcomes linked to each of the 10 Desired Results identified in the Strategic Plan. *The Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005 Accomplishments* identifies progress toward the Desired Results. The findings of this report will be

used, along with the findings of the needs assessment, for the development of a second five-year countywide plan for early care and education, to be implemented 2006-2010

William J. Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools, has indicated his approval of the report, *The Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005: Accomplishments*, by signing the Strategic Plan Report Form to be sent to the California Department of Education (see Attachment C.) The approval of the Report by your Board, as signified by the signature of the Chair on the California Department of Education Report on the Countwide Strategic Plan Accomplishments, is now requested.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Local Child Care Planning Councils are mandated by Education Code Chapter 2.3, Sections 8499.3 and 8499. This action does not change County programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None to County Government.

Special Instructions:

After approval and passage by the Board, please send the following documents to the office of Supervisor Rose, Attn. Rachel Couch:

1. two (2) certified copies of the Minute Order
2. two (2) original signed "Needs Assessment Form"
3. two (2) original signed "County Priorities Report Form"
4. two (2) original signed "Report on the Countywide Strategic Plan Accomplishments"

Concurrence:

County Counsel

Attachments:

- A. The needs assessment, entitled *Santa Barbara County: The Status of Early Care and Education* and the Needs Assessment Form (Attachment A).
- B. Priorities for Subsidized Child Development Program Funding, Santa Barbara County, and County Priorities Report Form (Attachment B).
- C. The report on *The Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005: Accomplishments*, and the Report on the Countywide Strategic Plan Accomplishments (Attachment C).