



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: January 14, 2019
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 1 Hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: N/A

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Director, Department of Social Services
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services
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SUBJECT: Child Welfare Services 2019 Annual Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive a presentation from the Department of Social Services regarding the Child Welfare Services 2019 Annual Update; and,
- b) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order for the Board to receive and file the Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services (CWS) Annual Update.

Background:

Beginning in September 2016, the Department has submitted a Child Welfare Services presentation annually to your Board inclusive of performance, improvements, challenges, and systemic issues in

conjunction with the California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. This fourth annual presentation will provide an update on the CFSR process, as well as two critical issues continuing to impact Child Welfare Services, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). In addition, the Department will be presenting information about prevention efforts and opportunities.

California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR)

The purpose of the CFSR is to both strengthen accountability and to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of youth in the foster care system. As such, the CFSR operates on a philosophy of setting strategic goals, continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting of county performance on the following Federal and State Measures:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services adequate to meet their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

The principal components of the CFSR Process include: 1) County Self-Assessment (CSA), 2) County System Improvement Plan (SIP), and 3) County System Improvement Plan Progress Reports (SIP Progress Reports).

The System Improvement Plan (SIP) serves as the operational agreement between the State and the County defining actions the County will implement to improve outcomes for children and families based on the findings in the CSA. The SIP focus is on efforts to improve performance on two Outcome Measures and one Systemic Factor: Permanency within 12 months (entering foster care), Placement Stability, and Workforce Wellness. The 2017-2022 System Improvement Plan was submitted to the state for review in December 2017, and subsequently approved by your Board of Supervisors in February 2018. Our second year SIP progress report was approved by the state November 2019.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Senate Bill 855 (Statutes of 2014) clarified Child Welfare Dependency Code to include commercially sexually exploited children as dependents. In addition, it established the optional state CSEC Program which provides funding to participating counties for prevention and intervention services, and training related to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. SB 855 further required Child Welfare to lead a team comprised of representatives from Probation, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, and the Juvenile Court in the development of an Interagency Protocol.

SB 794 passed in 2016, added new requirements focused on implementation of policies and procedures to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children and youth who are victims of, or at risk of, commercial sexual exploitation. Further, it required Child Welfare to implement protocols to locate missing children and youth as well as new reporting requirements to law enforcement for any known or suspected instance of commercial sexual exploitation of children or youth in foster care.

SB 1322 passed in 2017, required counties to continue building cross-systemic collaboration between law enforcement, probation departments, and child welfare agencies to establish strong multidisciplinary efforts that will best support the vulnerable population of CSEC.

In 2015, in an ongoing effort to meet the requirements of SB 855, the Department in collaboration with the Human Trafficking Task Force, the CSEC Court, and other community-based agencies, formed the CSEC steering committee. The steering committee continues to oversee the operationalization of the Interagency Protocol, designed to effectively serve CSEC youth by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach for case management, service planning, and the provision of services. Further, the CSEC Steering Committee, in collaboration with the training subgroup of the Human Trafficking Task Force, continue to focus on collaborative training efforts for First Responders as well as service providers and community based organizations. As a result, CSEC related referrals to the Child Abuse Hotline continue to increase significantly. Child Welfare continues to monitor CSEC related referrals and reports findings to the CSEC Steering Committee for consideration and further action as needed.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

Assembly Bill (AB) 403, amended June 1, 2015, implemented Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) recommendations to better serve children and youth in California's Child Welfare Services (CWS) system. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) draws together a series of existing and new reforms to child welfare services, probation and mental health programs designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their parents have better outcomes when cared for in committed nurturing family homes. The CCR seeks to further improve California's child welfare system and its outcomes by using comprehensive initial child assessments, expanding the use of child and family teams (CFT), increasing the availability of services and supports in home-based family care settings, reducing the use of congregate care placement settings, and creating faster paths to permanency resulting in shorter durations of involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Implementation efforts for CCR are well underway and will continue through 2021.

In order to meet the challenges of CCR the Department has formed internal and interagency workgroup structures to develop a framework for cross-agency teaming in order to serve children and families. Child Welfare continues to make progress in Continuum of Care Reform implementation in collaboration with all of our partners while tracking progress in reaching implementation milestones. To further these efforts, the Department is working on a collaborative MOU with Behavioral Wellness, Probation, and other child and family serving agencies to ensure coordinated, integrated and effective delivery of services for children, youth and families as required by SB 2083.

Prevention Efforts

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child

welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care. States May Opt-in beginning October 1, 2019 and no later than October 1, 2021. Analysis of the impacts of FFPSA and implementation planning activities are currently underway at both the state and county level.

In addition to FFPSA, local prevention activities have also been a focus for CWS during the last year. Santa Barbara County was selected as one of 22 Counties to Participate in CWS led Prevention Summit by CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Under the umbrella of the KIDS Network, the prevention team includes Child Welfare Services, First 5, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Network of Family Resource Centers, County Education Office, and Community-Based Organizations. The team goal is to integrate and strengthen the Santa Barbara County Prevention Network across all levels of the prevention continuum through shared learning opportunities, integrated messaging, and community-level data analysis. The team plans to come before your board with a presentation in April 2020 as part of our counties Child Abuse Prevention Campaign.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

Santa Barbara County Annual SIP Progress Report September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

Authored by:

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