



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: First 5 Santa Barbara Co
Department No.: CEO/HR
For Agenda Of: April 28, 2009
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 1 Hour on May 5, 2009
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Susan Paul, Assistant CEO/HR Director
Director(s) Patricia Wheatley, First 5 Executive Director
Contact Info: Eileen Monahan, Manager, First 5 Santa Barbara County x 1038

SUBJECT: Downtown Child Care Study

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

Set a hearing to receive a presentation May 5, 2009 on the results of the Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care Study

Summary Text:

First 5 Santa Barbara County, in coordination with CEO/Human Resources, has been working with employers in the downtown Santa Barbara area to conduct a formal workforce child care study to identify the specific child care needs of employees in the area and the impact on the workplace. All County employees, regardless of their geographic work location, were included in the study. The survey data has been analyzed and reports have been created for review by the Board and release to the public.

Background:

A public/private partnership including the County, the City of Santa Barbara, the Chamber of Commerce and a variety of downtown businesses has undertaken the task of assessing child care issues for the workforce. Initial demand and supply data was reviewed, additional data gathered and an employee child care survey was developed to gather information directly from employees. On January 22, 2008, the Board approved the participation of all County employees in the study, took a leadership role on the project, and contributed \$10,000 towards the cost of the survey.

The employee child care survey was conducted, through employers, of employees working in the downtown Santa Barbara area, as well as all County employees, regardless of their geographic work

address. Employers contributed, financially or in-kind, towards the costs of the survey. Additionally, parent focus groups and a child care supply inventory were conducted. The data has been analyzed and compiled into reports, along with local, state and national workforce child care data.

In recent years, the County has heard from employees that child care in the downtown Santa Barbara area is unavailable to them, and is causing a strain on productivity and the work environment. Employees have informally reported needing to travel long distances to access child care, having to patch together a variety of care arrangements, spending time at work worrying about, and dealing with poor quality child care, and some key employees have reported strongly considered leaving their jobs due to this stressful issue.

The County currently supports a child care center in Santa Maria at the Betteravia Government Center which has been in operation for several years. The center is operated by the YMCA and was included in the original building design at the Government Center with the intent of offering County employees working in Santa Maria a high quality child care center. While the facility provides a much needed service, the opportunity exists to expand its use. The Office of Early Care and Education has been working with the YMCA over the past two years to realize that vision.

The downtown Santa Barbara area is not unique – lack of availability of high quality child care is an issue for employers and employees everywhere. Generally, when faced with inadequate child care quality and supply, many parents place their children in settings that are less than optimum for a child, at the most critical time in their development. The impact of the availability of suitable child care typically results in difficulties for both the child and his/her parents who must deal with poor quality or patched together child care, and for the employer, who loses productivity. Therefore, this workforce child care study process is being documented and can then be a model for other areas of the County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Select_Budgeted

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

Authored by: First 5 Santa Barbara County

cc: