



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: 05/19/09
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes on 06/02/09
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No Vote Required

0519.22 09.00472

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kathy Gallagher, 681-4450
Director(s)
Contact Info: Kathy Gallagher

MAY 19 2009

SUBJECT: Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Select Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

Set a hearing for June 2, 2009 to receive a presentation from the Social Services Director on "Human Services in a Time of Economic Crisis," the impact of the declining economy on available services to residents of Santa Barbara County.

Summary Text:

The worst recession in decades has impacted Social Services clients already being served, as well as created a significant increase in the demand for services, amid reduced funding levels. As caseloads are rising, state funding has declined. We must fully recognize that spending in human services programs will strengthen the local economy and make an ongoing contribution to the County.

The presentation will include information on the current state of social services' program funding, service-level reductions and demand. The California State Association of Counties and the County Welfare Directors Association have asked all social services agencies throughout the state to provide this information to their boards.

Background:

Public assistance programs serve as an economic safety net for low-income families and individuals, helping them meet basic needs for food, shelter and health care. As the economy worsens and the local unemployment rate rises to 8.5%, the number of those needing assistance has escalated. Further, there is

a \$2 billion annual shortfall statewide. This growing shortfall leaves counties to determine how they will manage human service programs with greatly reduced resources and delayed benefits to families in need, while facing the challenge of meeting state and federal mandates.

A joint report by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) provides an analysis of the unprecedented increase in demand for human services programs, the impact of decreases in state funding on county-administered human services programs and why investment in these programs serves to stabilize and stimulate the economy. A recent study, "Spending on County Human Services: An Evaluation of Economic Impacts: (Beacon Economics 2009) estimates that for every \$1 spent on human service program benefits, \$1.32 is generated in local economic activity.

In order to communicate the urgent state of human service programs, CSAC and CWDA have embarked on a collaborative effort to provide education and bring increased understanding of the impact of the declining economy on social services provided in our communities and to encourage policymakers to consider that any reductions in spending and program eligibility come at a significant cost to families and children, as well as to state and local economies.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None Budgeted:

Narrative:

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions: After execution by the Chair, please return one (1) certified copy of the minute order to Diana Klopp, Department of Social Services.

Attachments:

Authored by:

Diana Klopp