



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

7

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

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: August 25, 2009
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Director
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568-3400 *msn*
SUBJECT: Consider Response to the Grand Jury Report on “A Child’s Death in Foster Care – An Unavoidable Tragedy?”

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Adopt the responses in Attachment (1) as the Board of Supervisors’ responses to the 2008-09 Grand Jury Report entitled “A Child’s Death in Foster Care – An Unavoidable Tragedy?”, and
- b. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment (1) forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

Summary Text:

On June 11, 2009, the Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “A Child’s Death in Foster Care – An Unavoidable Tragedy?” The report includes four findings and four recommendations. The Department of Social Services is named as the Santa Barbara County government responder to the findings and recommendations.

It is recommended that the Board wholly disagree with part of Finding 1; partially disagree with Finding 2 and 4 and wholly disagree with Finding 3. It is recommended that the Board respond to the recommendations as follows: Recommendations 1, 2, and 4 have been implemented, and Recommendation 3 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Details of these proposed responses are outlined in Attachment (1).

Background:

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933(c), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the Civil Grand Jury report. Consequently,

the Board of Supervisors' responses must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 8, 2009.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There are no fiscal or facilities impacts from the proposed recommendations.

Special Instructions:

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 8, 2009. The Clerk of the Board is requested to return the signed letter to Brenda Castillo, County Executive Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written responses and an electronic copy with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the Grand Jury.

Attachments: *

1. Letter to the Superior Court Judge with Board of Supervisors Responses
2. Department of Social Services Response to Grand Jury Report entitled "A Child's Death in Foster Care – An Unavoidable Tragedy?"
3. Grand Jury Report entitled "A Child's Death in Foster Care – An Unavoidable Tragedy?"

Authored by:

Rachel Katz, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, County Executive Office, 568-3411

cc:

Kathy Gallagher, Director of Social Services