

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: 3/7/05
Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 4/5/05
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10:00 a.m. Time Certain
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kathy Gallagher, Director
Dept. of Social Services

STAFF CONTACT: Katharina Zulliger, KIDS Network
346-8222

SUBJECT: 2005 CHILD FRIENDLY AWARDS

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors

1. approve resolution proclaiming April "Child Abuse Prevention Month",
2. present the CHILD FRIENDLY AWARDS to selected individuals in each Supervisor's District,
3. present county-wide CHILD FRIENDLY GROUP AWARDS to selected groups, and
4. present the SERVICE TO FAMILIES AWARD to an individual.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7: "A community that fosters the safety and well-being of families and children."

Executive Summary and Discussion: The Child Friendly Award was established in 1989 to honor individuals and groups who have made substantial and or unusual contributions to children in our county. Winners from each supervisorial district and countywide groups are chosen for this honor each year by a committee of the KIDS Network, which selects winners from nominations received from the community.

The Proclamation for "Child Abuse Prevention Month" will be accepted this year by **Dr. Anna Kokotovic**, Executive Director, Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM).

The 2005 Individual Awards:

First District: **William “Bill” Batty, Executive Director, Family Service Agency, Inc.**
Second District: **Kitty Maxwell, RN, Goleta Valley Hospital**
Third District: **Gale Wilson Steele, Founder/CEO, MedSeek, Inc.**
Fourth District: **Barry Coughlin, MD, Chair, Taskforce for Childhood Obesity**
Fifth District: **Donna Mooneyham, Manager, Perinatal Programs, Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc.**

The 2005 Group Awards:

First Place Winner: **Foster Grandparent Program, Tri-Counties Regional Center**
Honorable Mention: **“Music Van”, Santa Maria Philharmonic Society**

The Service to Families Award: Susan Ham, Director, Center for Community Education

Descriptions of each individual’s and group’s service are attached. The honorees will receive their awards at 10:00 a.m. (time certain). KIDS Network has made arrangements for a Public Reception honoring the Winners and commemorating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Reception will be held in the Board of Supervisors’ Conference Room in Santa Barbara immediately following the awards ceremony. Members of the Board, media representatives and the public are invited to attend.

Mandates and Services Levels:

No change.

Fiscal and Facilities Impact:

None.

Special Instructions:

After approval by the Chair of the Board, please return one (1) certified copy of the Minute Order to the KIDS Network, c/o Dept. of Social Services, Santa Maria, Attention: Irene Robles.

Attachments:

1. Resolution, Child Abuse Prevention Month
2. Award Winner’s Service Descriptions

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED) RESOLUTION NO. 2005-
RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2005) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH") COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS, there were 4,788 children and youth in Santa Barbara County reported and assessed for child abuse during 2003, down 49% from a historic high of 9,350 in 1996-97: and

WHEREAS, total foster care entries for Santa Barbara County are one-half the state average and have remained relatively constant over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has been successful in lowering our placement rate through community-based prevention and early intervention services such as the Family Resource Centers, the Multi-agency Integrated System of Care (MISC) program, and community initiatives such as First 5 Santa Barbara County, and

WHEREAS, the harmful effects of child abuse reach beyond the abused child, and adversely affect the well-being of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, research now shows us that child abuse, including exposure to domestic violence and emotional deprivation, impairs brain development in specific areas that may lead to an inability to relate to others, a key predictor of aggressive and antisocial behavior; and

WHEREAS, research has also clearly shown that child abuse can be prevented and the generational cycle of abuse within families can be interrupted; and

WHEREAS, we the public and leaders of Santa Barbara County wish to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of public and private agencies, including staff, volunteers, and foster families who provide a caring foundation in support of children, youth and families and wish to express our support and appreciation for all efforts to prevent child abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County proclaim April 2005 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and call upon all individuals, agencies, religious organizations and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to prevent childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional deprivation and exposure to family violence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 5th day of April 2005 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By _____
SUSAN ROSE, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
MICHAEL BROWN
Clerk of the Board

By _____

The 2005 Child Friendly Award Winners

Summaries of Service

First District: William “Bill” Batty (WK: 965-1001, x 225)

Bill Batty has been, and continues to be, a tireless advocate for children, youth and families (as well as seniors) living in Santa Barbara County. Bill became FSA’s Director in 1993. During his tenure, he has made significant changes in how FSA provides services to the community, shifting the primary focus from traditional clinical services to inclusion of outreach and client advocacy and delivery of services in home-based, school-based or community-based settings. The majority of FSA’s staff members are now bilingual/bicultural Spanish, a change that more closely represents the agency’s client population. Bill was involved in the strategic planning and implementation of two major initiatives in our county: the Pro-Youth Coalition, a program for prevention of youth gang violence; and the Multi-Agency Integrated System of Care (MISC), a program serving severely emotionally disturbed children and their families. He has also served several terms as an elected representative to the county-wide KIDS Network Policy Council. Bill is currently on the Planning Committee for the Children’s Project, a coalition of public and private organizations exploring ways to serve the needs of youth transitioning from foster care into the community. Bill is a passionate advocate for FSA and all non-profit agencies serving the community. His peers rely on Bill’s leadership and he is often their chosen spokesperson. Bill’s energy and enthusiasm are not easily matched and he is long overdue for recognition for his dedication to a better system of services for all members of the community.

Second District: Kitty Maxwell, RN (HM: 682-5606)

Kitty Maxwell has worked as a labor and delivery nurse at Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital for over three decades. During the same 30-plus years she has expanded her contribution to the community by donating her expertise as a lactation consultant. She does this by making free home visits to new mothers needing help to be successful at breastfeeding. The immediate and long-term benefits of breastfeeding are well-documented. Kitty has essentially been ‘on-call’ to the community of new mothers on the South Coast and has provided countless free breastfeeding consultations. Three years ago, in acknowledgement of the need for her services by monolingual Spanish-speaking mothers, Kitty began studying Spanish at Adult Education. Recently, in part to further her Spanish language fluency, Kitty opened her home to a Spanish-speaking exchange student. Kitty is a highly valued resource in Santa Barbara County’s ‘Welcome Every Baby’ Newborn Home Visiting program and they are very thankful to be able to refer new mothers to her, secure in the knowledge that one more baby will be happily nursing his or her way into a healthy childhood. Kitty typifies the dedication to children and families that the Child Friendly Award honors.

Third District: Gale Wilson Steele (WK: 694-3103)

Gale Wilson Steele is the founder and CEO of MedSeek, Inc., a company founded in 1996. From the beginning, Gale was interested in creating a flexible and supportive environment for her employees and their families. This has included:

- allowing employees to telecommute when childcare falls through,
- allowing flexibility in the daily schedule so that employees can attend to their personal or family needs,

- creating an in-office child-friendly environment for employees needing to bring their children to work, and
- reimbursing employees for any extraordinary childcare costs due to work-related travel.

This past year, MedSeek was invited, and will participate, as the first pilot site for the Santa Barbara Work/Life Initiative. The goal is to begin the process of creating a local pool of data for use by employers interested in supporting the work and life balance needs of employees. Data collected will be used to plan and guide employer sponsored childcare in the Santa Ynez Valley and around the county. Gale and MedSeek are working hard to improve the lives of children by helping their parents balance the need to work with the demands of parenting. We thank Gale for her vision and leadership and wish her continued success in her efforts to create a more child and family-friendly workplace.

Fourth District: Barry Coughlin, MD (HM: 735-7771)

As a long-time cardiologist, Dr. Barry Coughlin has an obvious interest in good health. In 2004 he began dedicating his personal time to developing constructive solutions to the growing problem of overweight children, the most serious health concern facing children today. Alarmed at the crisis, he acted to address the complex underlying issues in practical ways. He became an advocate for obesity prevention at the state and local policy level. Dr. Coughlin has served as Chair of the state's Task Force for Childhood Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease. After examining the contributing factors, he brought the group to consensus and made comprehensive recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on actions that can and should be taken by schools and their partners to address this epidemic. In addition to his work at the state level, Dr. Coughlin has given his time and expertise to numerous local partnerships and initiatives working to improve children's nutrition and health. He was a key stakeholder in the formation of the Lompoc Valley Healthy Kids Initiative, which recently received a grant from the California Endowment to complete a community assessment and action plan. Dr. Coughlin's leadership and commitment to obesity prevention will impact every child in Santa Barbara County.

Fifth District: Donna Mooneyham (WK: 925-0315)

Donna has been employed by the Good Samaritan Shelter in Santa Maria for twelve years. She currently works as the program manager of Perinatal Services, which include TC House, Project PREMIE and First Steps Case Management. Donna's own troubled history gives her a unique empathy for her work with mothers struggling with substance abuse. She understands their desire to overcome addiction and become better parents to their children. Donna was herself a successful client and graduate of the Shelter's programs before beginning her employment there. Donna initially worked in the Detox program and began attending Allan Hancock College full-time to get her AA Degree in Alcohol & Drug Studies. After she completed her degree, Donna became a drug and alcohol counselor working with perinatal women in need of treatment services, and eventually rose to Program Manager. Donna's commitment to helping mothers with substance abuse issues and their children is to be admired. She is able to bond with them and help bring families together that have been shattered as a result of addiction. Donna goes above and beyond her job. She is on call 24 hours a day, and spends her own personal time and funds to bring women to AA/NA conventions and to supplement the Shelter's supplies to meet the needs of children. She is long overdue for recognition as a true friend of children.

County-wide Group Award: Foster Grandparent Program, Tri-Counties Regional Center
(Contact: Diana Slais, Program Manager, 884-7226)

Tri-Counties Regional Center established the Foster Grandparent Program in 1967 to facilitate one-on-one relationships between low-income seniors, over 60 years of age, and children with developmental disabilities. Foster Grandparents give their time, hearts and a lifetime of experience to provide an opportunity for children to more fully participate in school and daily living activities. Each week twelve Foster Grandparents go to schools in Santa Maria, Goleta and Santa Barbara to assist in classrooms four hours a day, five days a week. They read with students, help children stay focused, and assist teachers wherever they are needed. They give children the encouragement and caring that helps them move forward and feel good about themselves. They often become the ‘grandparent’ that so many children do not have: someone who is there to give them the extra support they need. In our county, Foster Grandparents touch the lives of over two hundred students. Each volunteer helps make possible the vision of Tri-Counties Regional Center, which is that “persons with developmental disabilities will live as full and active members of their community”. The Foster Grandparents exemplify the true spirit of the child friendly awards.

Group Honorable Mention: “Music Van”, Santa Maria Philharmonic Society
(Contact: Nancy Converse, Educational Activities Chair, 925-1749)

The Music Van program was created about 25 years ago by the Santa Barbara Symphony Orchestra Society to introduce the instruments of the symphonic orchestra to third graders. As a means of fostering appreciation for, and participation in, musical organizations, the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society has leased this program from its originators for the past two years. They have presented the program to children in elementary schools in Santa Maria, Orcutt and Guadalupe and to Valley Christian Academy. The Music Van is configured to hold a collection of string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. A forty-five minute program introduces the instruments to classes of about twenty students at a time. In small groups, students get instruction and an opportunity to play the various instruments. It’s a wonder-filled, joyous and inspiring experience that prepares students to make choices about joining musical groups that are offered to fourth and fifth graders. During the last six weeks of the school year, twenty-two volunteers in teams of four-to-seven instructors did seventy-five performances per school day for 1300 students at a cost of about \$1100. Much of the cost is covered by grants from businesses and organizations such as the Santa Maria Arts Council. We applaud the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society for bringing this excellent program to North County children.

Service to Families Award: Susan Ham (WK: 569-3873)

Susan Ham began her employment with the Santa Barbara County Office of Education in 1979, beginning as a youth recreation therapist. Susan has an associate degree from Ventura Community College and a Bachelor’s from Cal State Northridge. She has served admirably in a variety of positions in youth services and in 1999 was promoted to the position of Director for the Center for Community Education. As Director she is responsible for a wide range of programs, including

- Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Education,
- Foster Youth Services,
- Beyond Tolerance Center,
- Annual County Parent Conference,

- Spirit Awards,
- Homeless Education/Liaison Project, and
- numerous other projects, programs, services and events.

In each of these endeavors, Susan has been the guiding force in organizing, coordinating and leveraging community support. Her entire career has been dedicated to the betterment of children and youth in our community. She has often devoted evenings, weekends and vacation time to improving the lives of children. Susan has been a tireless advocate for homeless children, working to connect them with schools and providing information on family resources. She has worked with in partnership with community sites to provide a safe and supportive place for homeless children after school, before local shelters typically open. She also advocated for changes in policy and practice at the macro level, bringing together policy makers and community leaders to help solve problems and eliminate barriers. She has been a highly successful fund-raiser for numerous projects, always inspiring people to do more to support the needs of children. She sometimes jokingly refers to herself as “Mother Ham” but her colleagues think of her as “Saint Susan”. In her modest, low key, self-effacing manner she is the epitome of service, duty, and love - and a perfect candidate for the prestigious Service to Families Award!