



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: Child Support Services  
Department No.: 045  
For Agenda Of: August 14, 2018  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: 5 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: No vote required

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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kelly McLaughlin, 568-2328  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Joni Maiden, 568-2343

SUBJECT: **Child Support Awareness Month**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select\_Other

As to form: No

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:** Receive and file a presentation of Child Support Services.

**Summary Text:**

August has been celebrated as Child Support Awareness Month since President Clinton's 1995 federal proclamation. Every year at this time, we highlight the importance of child support services and how they assist families and children. The State Department of Child Support Services has chosen "They don't need perfect. They just need you" as this year's theme. Locally, Santa Barbara County Department of Child Support Services professionals will observe the month by focusing on public outreach to parents, children and community members to raise awareness of the services offered by our program.

**Background:**

Many parents can be overwhelmed by the complexities of raising a child, striving hard to be the "perfect" parent. To that end, this year's Child Support Awareness Month campaign encourages parents with this year's theme: "They Don't Need Perfect, They Just Need You." This message references all of the benefits that children receive from the participation of both parents in their lives, and helps all parents remember that the Child Support Services program is there to assist them in reducing the stress of the child support process.

Almost 13,000 families are served through Santa Barbara County's Child Support program. Last year, the program distributed \$24 million to families in Santa Barbara County, an increase over the previous year. There have been progressive programs implemented in the child support system that include

payment options for parents, aid in establishing legal parentage of a child, assistance with past due balances and assistance with modifying child support orders to improve parents' ability to contribute to their child's support. Programs are free and/or low cost and are available to guardians and both parents; our child support professionals can help find a path forward.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Negligible one-time costs funded 100% by federal and state funding.

**Special Instructions:**

N/A

**Authored by:**

Joni Maiden

**cc:**