



**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:** 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
**Department No.:**  
**For Agenda Of:** 5/25/10  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Tme:** 15 minutes on 5/25/10  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member: Supervisor Centeno, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Contact Info: Children's Health Initiative Santa Barbara, Tara Dooley, Program Manager, 964-4710, x 4460 and Georgene Lowe, Chair, 964-4710 x 4455  
Patricia Wheatley, Executive Director, Santa Barbara First 5, 884-8087

**SUBJECT: Children's Health Initiative Santa Barbara, Update and Presentation**

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**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:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive and accept the Santa Barbara County Children's Health Initiative (CHISB) progress report and presentation for FY 08/09.

**Summary Text:**

The Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County continues to demonstrate positive outcomes for Healthy Kids insurance subscribers and for recently insured children in the areas of health and dental services access and utilization, school attendance and parental assessment of children's health. In addition, recent research analysis by the University of Southern California of preventable hospitalizations for children in Santa Barbara County has revealed a decrease in the percentage of preventable hospitalizations since the inception of CHISB outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization activities and the implementation of Healthy Kids Santa Barbara. The Children's Health Initiative welcomes the opportunity to present the following evaluation outcomes to the Board of Supervisors:

- **Increased enrollment in public insurance products (Medi-Cal/Healthy Families).**
  - There has been a **12.5% increase in Medi-Cal enrollment in our County** from 2006 to 2009.
  - There has been a **27.4% increase in Healthy Families enrollment in our County** from 2006 to 2009.
  - Of **2,382 children** enrolled through Santa Barbara County Healthy Kids outreach efforts from July 2008 through June 2009, **almost three quarters (74%)** were eligible for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families. This means more federal and state dollars are supporting the care of our local children.
  - Since 2006, we have doubled the number (49 to over 100) of Certified Application Assistors (CAA) in Santa Barbara County trained and supported by CHISB.
- **Children having health insurance is critical to the operation and financial stability of county public health clinics, community clinics and hospitals.**
  - **Uncompensated care costs** for children's hospitalizations in 2007 in Santa Barbara County amounted to \$1,061,264 (data from Office of Statewide Planning & Development [OSPD], Lisa Simonson Maiuro, MSPH, Ph.D, Health Management Associates).
  - From OSPD hospital reporting data comparing pre- and post-CHISB implementation, an analysis by USC shows a **decrease in the percentage of preventable child hospitalizations** of 17.3% resulting in an estimated cost savings of \$589,692 for 18 months from mid-2006 through 2007 alone.
  - As a result of your support of Healthy Kids program **outreach**, previously uninsured children served by County departments and hospitals are now being enrolled in health insurance through **CHISB out-stationed Certified Application Assistors** that enroll referred uninsured children on-site at County Public Health Clinics and Marian Medical Center.
- **Decreased use of the Emergency Room**
  - From CenCal Health utilization data analysis, Healthy Kids members utilized the Emergency Room at nearly ¼ the rate of Medi-Cal members (26.45%) and 16% less than Healthy Families members in 2008.
  - Last year, one local Santa Barbara County hospital reported a decrease of 5.5% from the year before of costs incurred for **Emergency Room visits** by uninsured children. This resulted in a cost savings of nearly \$14,000 for one year at one hospital.
- **Parent Surveys for 2008-09 indicate:**
  - **Insured children are now accessing medical and dental services at significantly increased rates.**
    - Child had visited a **doctor** in past year
      - 62% at enrollment
      - 88% at 3 month interview
      - **90% at 12 month re-enrollment**
    - Child had visited a **dentist** within 6 months
      - 22% at enrollment
      - 56% at 3 month interview
      - **93% at 12 month re-enrollment**
  - **Parents report fewer school absences as children are healthier.**

- Child missed one or more days of school, child care or preschool because he/she was sick:
  - 24.3% at enrollment
  - 8% at 3 month interview
  - 8% at 12 month re-enrollment

➤ **Although CHISB has significantly decreased the number of uninsured children county-wide, according to data from the County and other sources, there remain several thousand children who are uninsured and ineligible for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families insurance. CHISB continues to match County dollars with private funds to decrease the waiting list.**

**Background:** The Santa Barbara County Children's Health Initiative has been in existence since 2001. Its primary mission is to provide eligible children with access and utilization support for one of the three publicly funded health insurance products, Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Healthy Kids. It is supported by various County and community agencies with Santa Barbara County Education Office serving as the staff home for the initiative. Funding is provided by private foundations, such as the California Endowment and the Santa Barbara Foundation, and by public funds, including First 5 Santa Barbara County. The County Board of Supervisors approved funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 in the 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 budgets to increase the number of children in the County receiving health insurance with a particular focus on funding for Healthy Kids premiums. Healthy Kids, our local health insurance product for children that do not qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, has been able to more than double enrollment (1,005 children enrolled May, 2010) with the Santa Barbara County allocations but currently has a waiting list of more than 600 children due to lack of sufficient funding.

In addition to the enrollment, outreach, retention and utilization efforts around Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Healthy Kids, the Santa Barbara Children's Health Initiative collaborates with the California Children's Health Initiatives, California Covering Kids and Families (National Health Foundation), Communities for Healthy Kids (Institute for Local Government) and Teachers for Healthy Kids (California Teachers Association) on state-wide advocacy, information and legislative efforts for children's health insurance. At the federal level the CHISB also monitors changes affecting SCHIP or Medi-Cal and analyzes the impact for children at the local level.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**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	\$ 1,000,000.00		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

The Board of Supervisors approved \$1,000,000 in premium funding from the General Fund for the Children's Health Initiative for the first time in Fiscal Year FY 07/08. Funding for the same amount was renewed for FY 08/09 and FY 09/10.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Attachments:**

**Authored by:** Tara Dooley, CHISB Program Manager; Elizabeth Nosse, Executive Staff Assistant, Office of Supervisor Centeno

**cc:** Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer  
Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer  
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