



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: December 4, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 1 Hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: N/A

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Director, Department of Social Services
Director(s)
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services
(805) 346-8351

SUBJECT: Child Welfare Services 2018 Annual Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive a presentation from the Department of Social Services regarding the Child Welfare Services 2018 Annual Update; and,
- b) Determine the above actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order for the Board to receive and file the Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services (CWS) Annual Update.

Background:

As stated in the Response to the Child Welfare Safety Net Task Force report previously provided to the Board of Supervisors on June 7, 2016, the Department intends to submit a presentation annually to the Board inclusive of performance, improvements, challenges, and systemic issues in conjunction with the California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. This third annual presentation will

provide an update on the CFSR process, as well as two critical issues continuing to impact Child Welfare Services, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR)

The purpose of the CFSR is to both strengthen accountability and to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of youth in the foster care system. As such, the CFSR operates on a philosophy of setting strategic goals, continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting of County performance on the following Federal and State Measures:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services adequate to meet their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

The principal components of the CFSR process include: 1) County Self-Assessment (CSA), 2) County System Improvement Plan (SIP), and 3) County System Improvement Plan Progress Reports (SIP Progress Reports).

The System Improvement Plan (SIP) serves as the operational agreement between the State and the County defining actions the County will implement to improve outcomes for children and families based on the findings in the CSA. The SIP focus is on efforts to improve performance on two Outcome Measures and one Systemic Factor: Permanency within 12 months (entering foster care), Placement Stability, and Workforce Wellness. The System Improvement Plan was submitted to the State for review in December 2017, and subsequently approved by your Board of Supervisors in February 2018. Our first year SIP progress report was submitted to the State in September 2018, and is currently in the final stages of review.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Senate Bill 855 (Statutes of 2014) clarified Child Welfare Dependency Code to include commercially sexually exploited children as dependents. In addition, it established the optional state CSEC Program which provides funding to participating counties for prevention and intervention services, and training related to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. SB 855 further required Child Welfare to lead a multidisciplinary team in the development of an interagency protocol.

Senate Bill 794, passed in 2016, added new requirements focused on implementation of policies and procedures to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children and youth who are

victims of, or at risk of, commercial sexual exploitation. Further, it required Child Welfare to implement protocols to locate missing children and youth as well as new reporting requirements to law enforcement for any known or suspected instance of commercial sexual exploitation of children or youth in foster care.

Senate Bill 1322, passed in 2017, required counties to continue building cross-systemic collaboration between law enforcement, probation departments, and child welfare agencies to establish strong multidisciplinary efforts that will best support the vulnerable population of CSEC.

In an ongoing effort to meet the requirements of SB 855, the Department, in collaboration with the Human Trafficking Task Force, Probation, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, and other community-based agencies, formed the CSEC Steering Committee in 2015. The steering committee has worked to develop an Interagency Protocol designed to effectively serve CSEC youth by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach for case management, service planning, and the provision of services. The CSEC Steering Committee, in collaboration with the training subgroup of the Human Trafficking Task Force, are currently spearheading training efforts for the First Responder Protocol with law enforcement. As a result, CSEC related referrals to the Child Abuse Hotline from law enforcement have increased significantly. Child Welfare continues to monitor CSEC related child abuse referrals and will be reporting the findings to the CSEC Steering Committee for consideration and further action as needed.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

Assembly Bill (AB) 403, amended June 1, 2015, implemented Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) recommendations to better serve children and youth in California's Child Welfare Services (CWS) system. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) draws together a series of existing and new reforms to child welfare services, probation and mental health programs designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their parents have better outcomes when cared for in committed nurturing family homes. The CCR seeks to further improve California's child welfare system and its outcomes by using comprehensive initial child assessments, expanding the use of child and family teams (CFT), increasing the availability of services and supports in home-based family care settings, reducing the use of congregate care placement settings, and creating faster paths to permanency resulting in shorter durations of involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Implementation efforts for CCR are well underway and will continue to occur between now and 2021.

In order to meet the challenges of CCR, CWS has formed internal and interagency workgroup structures to develop a framework for cross-agency teaming in order to serve children and families. Child Welfare continues to make progress in Continuum of Care Reform implementation in collaboration with all of our partners while tracking progress in reaching implementation milestones.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services 2018 Annual Update

Authored by:

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