



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: County Executive Office  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: August 26, 2008  
Placement: Set Hearing September 2<sup>th</sup>,  
2008  
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes on 9/9/08  
Continued Item:  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer  
Director  
Contact Info: Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant CEO  
**SUBJECT:** Consider and Adopt the Response to the Grand Jury Report on “Child Welfare Services: A System of Care that Lacks Stability”

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**Recommended Actions:** That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing to consider the response to the Civil Grand Jury report entitled “Child Welfare Services: A System of Care that Lacks Stability”.

- a) Adopt the responses as the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2007-08 Grand Jury Report entitled “Child Welfare Services: A System of Care that Lacks Stability”, and
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

**Summary Text:**

On June 23, 2008, the Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “Child Welfare Services: A System of Care that Lacks Stability.” The report includes five findings and four recommendations primarily related to: (1) lack of continuity of one social worker throughout a case, (2) lack of preparation of emancipated foster care youth and (3) social worker turnover. The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the Department of Social Services respond to all findings and recommendations while Human Resources respond to findings three and five and recommendation three. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors must respond to all of the report’s findings and recommendations (see attachment for proposed responses).

**Background:**

The Grand Jury Report released its report on “Child Welfare Services” on June 23, 2008. In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933(b), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors’ responses must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 16, 2008. The proposed Board of Supervisors’ responses (attached) will be considered by the Board on September 2, 2008.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** Recommendation 2, expanding programs to prepare emancipated youth, is largely contingent on additional State funding of programs to house emancipated youth. There are no proposed fiscal impacts to the County associated with the other recommendations at this time.

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative:

**Special Instructions:**

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 16, 2008. 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 a 3 ½” computer disc with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the Grand Jury.

**Attachments:** \*

1. Grand Jury Report entitled “Child Welfare Services: A System of Care that Lacks Stability”
2. Letter to the Superior Court Judge with Board of Supervisors Responses
3. Department of Social Services Response to Grand Jury Report
4. Human Resources Department Response to Grand Jury Report

**Authored by:**

Sharon Friedrichsen, County Executive Office, 568.3107

**cc:**

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Social Services  
Sue Paul, Assistant CEO/ Human Resources Director