

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: 10/19/05
Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 11/08/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Carole Ferrari, MA, PHN, 681-4932
Director, Maternal, child and Adolescent Health

SUBJECT: Adolescent Family Life Program and Cal-Learn Teen Age Parenting Programs

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Accept a report from the Public Health Department on their Strategic Planning Initiative to transition the Adolescent Family Life Program to the community and to transition Cal-Learn Case Management to the Department of Social Services.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: This recommendation aligns with Goal No 7: A community that fosters the safety and well being of families and children.

Executive Summary and Discussion: Under the umbrella of the Teen Age Parenting Program (TAPP) within the Public Health Department are two programs:

- A. The Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) is a state and federally funded program operated through the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Branch of the California Department of Health Services (DHS). This non-mandated program addresses the costly problem of teen childbearing and teen parenting through the provision of long-term intensive case management services.
- B. Cal-Learn is an intensive case management program for teens receiving Cal Works, California's welfare reform program. This program is a mandate to the Department of Social Services (DSS) and is designed to assist teen parents to obtain support services that help them to remain in school, thus reducing long-term welfare dependency.

These teen-age parenting programs are important and the dollars invested in helping these teen mothers and fathers yield future benefits and cost savings. Local TAPP statistics show that of the teens enrolled, over 50% remain enrolled in school; 6.9% have low birth weight babies as compared to a rate of 7.6% for the

State; 7.2% gave birth to premature infants as compared to the rate of 12.3% for the State; and 97% delayed subsequent births for over 24 months.

Originally, TAPP was operated by a community-based organization (CBO) in Santa Barbara County. In 1998, the PHD was approached to assume the responsibility for the programs, after the bankruptcy of the CBO. At the time, other CBOs were interested in the operation of the programs. However, the most expedient solution at the time in order to keep client disruption to a minimum was to have the PHD take over the stewardship of both programs. After the PHD could stabilize the programs, it was planned to transition them back to the community, a process that was thought to take approximately 5 years.

Funding History. Neither of these programs were mandated functions of the PHD nor was there additional local funding for the programs. PHD worked closely with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) and DSS in order to try to ensure full funding was available. This was particularly important because PHD special revenue funds cannot be used to supplement or supplant state and federal funding for either program because they are not related to the department's Federally Qualified Health Center status.

Fortunately, the Cal-Learn program funding from DSS has always been adequate to cover all incurred costs. However, the funding for the AFLP has never been adequate to cover its full costs and because program funding increases have not kept pace with increases in direct costs and county-wide cost allocation charges, the program has been operating at an increasing deficit: an approximate \$150,000 projected for FY 2005-06. The PHD has repeatedly appealed to the State to honor its commitment to fully fund the program, but has been unsuccessful.

Transition Plans. Therefore, in keeping with its original intent, the PHD will transition the AFLP program to the community beginning in FY 2006-07 and will return the operation of the Cal-Learn program to DSS. DSS is aware of the need for this transition and has agreed to resume Cal-Learn operations as of July 1, 2006. Currently, further planning is underway and DSS is exploring various options for the Cal-Learn program.

The Public Health Department informed DHS-MCH Branch of its intent to transition AFLP to the community by the end of June 2006. The State has indicated it will initiate a competitive request for application process to enable CBO's or County Schools to apply. There are several community-based organizations as well as County Schools interested in implementing AFLP and possibly the Cal-Learn program. The PHD has met with some of these organizations and several already have complementary teen parenting programs in place. These organizations are all competently managed, well-respected organizations with caring and committed staff. These meetings have been essential to this process as this transition would not be attempted if the PHD was not assured that a high quality, local organization could take over the stewardship of the program and provide the same or higher quality service to the clients.

Strategic Planning. Although the PHD currently operates and manages many important non-mandated programs, it is facing many financial difficulties and must begin to focus on its core, mandated programs in order to be able to meet statutory obligations with its current amount of resources. Its strategic planning and budgeting process have lead to the development of three key initiatives:

1. Correct the Structural Deficit - Relocating programs, evaluating service levels, streamlining processes, and optimizing additional funding

2. Maintain Access to Care - Specialty and Inpatient care access and professional recruitment and retention
3. Build Infrastructure – Fortifying support operations and transitioning to changing technologies

As part of strategic initiative one, correcting the structural deficit, the PHD has identified those non-mandated services that could be provided by other organizations. The AFLP and Cal-Learn programs have been identified as two of those that the PHD is not necessarily the only qualified provider. In addition, the increasing local match for the AFLP program is causing the department to have to reallocate decreasing local dollars meant for mandated programs.

Public Health Department Staff. Like the staff of the CBO that operated TAPP prior to the PHD, the TAPP staff of the PHD have ensured that their teen clients obtain health and support services, build self-esteem, and develop parenting skills that enhance the health and welfare of their children. There is currently 14 PHD staff working in the TAPP program. The staff has been informed about the plans for the program. PHD and County Human Resources will work to assist TAPP staff in identifying employment options once the program transitions to another provider. It is anticipated that positions can be held vacant within the PHD to accommodate transfers of TAPP staff being displaced and other transfer or promotional opportunities can be located within the County or in the community. Every effort will be made to find appropriate placements for PHD staff affected by this transition.

Conclusion. The PHD will work with the State to ensure that the new community provider can also provide that level of service to this population. The program currently operates in both the North and South County with case management teams that serve approximately 275 teens per month in AFLP and approximately 71 teens per month in Cal-Learn.

Staff from the PHD, DSS, and DHS and the teens currently enrolled in both programs will create a transition plan. Once the community-based provider is identified by the State, transition to that agency will proceed.

Mandates and Service Levels: AFLP is a non-mandated program. Receipt of MCH funds obligates the county to comply with statutes: California Administrative Code, Title 17, Article 2, Chapter 3, Sections 1276, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2505; California Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter 3, Subchapter 1.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: There is no fiscal or facilities impact associated with the acceptance of this report.

However, as previously stated, the Cal-Learn program was adequately funded by DSS and has a Fiscal Year 05-06 adopted budget of approximately \$265,000. The AFLP program has a Fiscal Year 05-06 adopted budget of \$1,050,000 in expenditures and State/Federal funding of approximately \$900,000. This deficit of \$150,000 is currently funded by general fund contribution. The FY 05-06 adopted budgets for both programs can be found on page D- 186 of the County's Operating Plan document in the Families cost center of the Public Health Department.

Special Instructions: Please send a copy of the minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 **Attn: Margaret Granger (805) 681 5367.**

Concurrence: Department of Social Services