



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: May 12, 2015
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 20 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Director (805) 346-7101
Director(s)
Contact Info: Barbara Finch, Children and Adult Network Director (805) 681-4678

SUBJECT: The Santa Barbara County Partnership for Strengthening Families

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the Santa Barbara County Partnership for Strengthening Families presentation; and
- b) Determine pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline 15378(b)(5) that the above action is not a project subject to CEQA review because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The intent of this agenda item is to provide information about Santa Barbara County's strategy for child abuse and neglect prevention, and to encourage Board support for policies that strengthen health and human services, enhance early care and education and assist families in our community. The presentation illustrates a collaborative approach to prevention that is being implemented by the County's Child Abuse Prevention Council in partnership with the Child Care Planning Council and the Network of Family Resource Centers. The interagency partnership uses a Strengthening Families approach and focuses primarily on families with young children, since this group is most vulnerable to abuse and most impacted by toxic stress. (In 2013, 48 % of referrals substantiated by Child Welfare Services and 32 % of Differential Response referrals to community partners in Santa Barbara County involved children ages 0-5yrs). By strengthening networks of family support, families in-crisis or at-risk are linked to resources that help them build the protective factors that move them toward safety and self-sufficiency.

This approach not only strengthens families but also supports child development and reduces the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Background:

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18980 et seq. mandates that each county support a local Child Abuse Prevention Council. The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council has 22 active members representing public and private organizations with expertise in child abuse prevention, as well as community members and parents committed to supporting child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. Staffing is provided in-kind by the Department of Social Services (KIDS Network) supported by a \$20,000 contribution from the Children's Trust Fund.

One of the primary activities of the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is to coordinate a public awareness campaign for the month of April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As part of the 2015 campaign, the CAPC decided to highlight the Santa Barbara County Partnership for Strengthening Families and share its collaborative approach to child abuse and neglect prevention.

Strengthening Families is a research-informed framework for building key protective factors that support families and enable children to thrive. Over the last decade, the Center for the Study of Social Policy has built Strengthening Families into one of the most widely recognized approaches to child abuse and neglect prevention in the country. California's Strengthening Families Initiative began in 2007 and involves government and community partners in more than 40 counties. Implementation includes community-based child abuse prevention programs, early childhood systems, child welfare and home visitation programs.

In Santa Barbara County, Strengthening Families is being integrated into multiple service systems through the Partnership for Strengthening Families. The partnership was formed in 2010 to align the efforts of the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Child Care Planning Council around the Protective Factors Framework. In 2011 the partnership was expanded to include the Network of Family Resource Centers. Santa Barbara's Partnership has been recognized at the state level as an innovative and promising model for collaboration. Activities have included shared learning, coordinated prevention efforts and leveraging of resources. An MOU between the three entities formalizes the partnership. The work plan of the partnership is currently focused on impacting the workforce and engaging parents as partners in prevention. During the past six months, the Partnership has provided training in Mandated Reporting and Strengthening Families to more than 150 early care providers, family support workers, and students entering the fields of family support, community medicine and early care and education. By educating the work force about protective factors, workers who interface with families each day are better prepared to recognize and respond appropriately to early warning signs of family stress and to report suspected abuse or neglect when indicated. Parents across the county are also being trained as prevention partners. Eighteen parents representing community-based organizations in north, south and mid-county received three full days of leadership training centered on the Strengthening Families framework and they are sharing this information through peer-to-peer gatherings supported by the networks and their host organizations.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that child abuse and neglect cost the United States \$124 billion each year. The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012 including childhood health care costs, adult medical costs, productivity losses,

child welfare and criminal justice costs and special education costs. Remedial education, clinical treatment and other professional interventions are more costly and produce less desirable outcomes than the provision of nurturing, protective relationships and appropriate learning experiences early in life. The Partnership for Strengthening Families invites county officials, employees and citizens to join efforts to build strong families and safe communities and eliminate child abuse and neglect.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Send a minute order of the Board's action to:

Department of Social Services

Attn: Barbara Finch

234 Camino del Remedio

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Attachments:

- (1) Partnership for Strengthening Families PowerPoint presentation
- (2) Memorandum of Understanding for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- (3) CAPC information sheet
- (4) Child Care Planning Council Brochure
- (5) Network of Family Resource Centers Brochure
- (6) Strengthening Families California: State Profile
- (7) Strengthening Families as a Platform for Collaboration

Authored by:

Barbara Finch, Children and Adult Network Director

cc: _