



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: Second District Office
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: May 22, 2007
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board Member: Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf
Contact Info: Mary O’Gorman, Executive Staff Assistant 568-2191

SUBJECT:

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the Priorities for Subsidized Child Development Program Funding, Santa Barbara County, to be submitted by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council to the California Department of Education (Attachment A).

Summary Text:

Among the statutory mandates for the Child Care Planning Council (“Council” or “CCPC”) is the obligation to determine priority areas for child care and development programs in the county. Education Code Section 8499.5(b)(6) requires Child Care Planning Councils to conduct periodic reviews of need for, and supply of, child care and development programs funded by the California Department of Education. The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council reviews the Priorities every year and presents them to the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools for approval if they are changed.

In February 2007, the Council appointed an ad hoc committee to review the Priorities. The Priorities Committee used data from multiple sources in reviewing and establishing priorities. The sources included census data on numbers of children by age, numbers of children in families with all parents employed, and income of families; school data on numbers of children eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch and numbers of children in kindergartens receiving free or reduced-fee lunch; and child development program data on supply of state and federal subsidized child care and development spaces.

The history of fund allocation by the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education was also reviewed. The State has inconsistently used the Council Priorities when allocating funds. It was noted that last year, rather than working through Priorities 1, 2, and 3 established by the Council, the State focused only on Priority 1. In such a situation, funds would have been redirected to another county's Priority 1 if programs in Santa Barbara County's Priority 1 areas had been unable to apply for all the funds at the time. As a result, Santa Barbara County would have lost the funds in spite of having children eligible and needing services in other parts of the county. The Council recommends that establishing the whole county as Priority 1 is the best way to ensure that all eligible children in Santa Barbara County have an opportunity to receive child development program services. The Priorities for child development program funding are identified in Attachment A.

The California Department of Education requires the approval of the County Priorities of an authorized representative of your Board and by the Superintendent of Schools. William J. Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools, has indicated his approval of the County Priorities by signing the County Priorities Report Form to be sent to the California Department of Education (see Attachment A.) The approval of the County Priorities by your Board, as signified by the signature of the Chair on the California Department of Education County Priorities Report Form, is now requested.

Background:

Santa Barbara County's original Child Care Planning Council ("the Council" or "CCPC") was formed by the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 as a result of the 1990 Federal Omnibus Budget Act. The role of the Council was to develop a local plan and priorities for distribution of the new Federal Child Care Block Grant funds. For its first few years, financial support for the Council's activities was provided entirely through in-kind services donated by the County Office of Education and Council members. Since 1994 the Council has received annual grants from the California Department of Education. Funds provided to the Council are administered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

Since the inception of the CCPC, members have worked to coordinate and plan the delivery of child care services in Santa Barbara County, serve as liaison between the State Department of Education, Child Development Division and the local community, and provide support and training to the Early Childhood Education Community.

Pursuant to the Statutes of 1997, AB 1542, which established California's welfare reform program (CalWORKs), a local Child Care Planning Council must be established in each county (Education Code Chapter 2.3, Sections 8499.3 and 8499). On April 28, 1998, your Board (in conjunction with the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, which has joint authority over the Council) amended the functions, governance, structure, membership and bylaws of the existing Council to conform to the requirements of welfare reform as defined by AB 1542.

Local Child Care Planning Councils are mandated by Education Code Chapter 2.3, Sections 8499.3 and 8499. This action does not change County programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts to the County associated with the recommended action.

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

After approval and passage by the Board, please send the following documents to the office of Supervisor Wolf, Attn. Jane Ferry

1. two (2) certified copies of the Minute Order
2. two (2) original signed "County Priorities Report Form"

Attachments:

Priorities for Subsidized Child Development Program Funding, Santa Barbara County Report Form (Attachment A)

cc:

Santa Barbara County Education Office