

**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: 03/19/04
Department Name: General County Programs
Department No.: 990
Agenda Date: 4/13/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 5 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown, County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Eileen Monahan, Early Care & Education Coordinator
x1038

SUBJECT: Approve the transfer of the Office of Early Care and Education from CAO General Fund Programs to the FIRST 5 Children and Families Commission

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve transferring the Office of Early Care and Education from one of the County Administrator's General Fund programs (fund 0001) to the First 5 Children and Families Commission, Santa Barbara County (fund 0010).

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1: An efficient government able to respond effectively to the needs of the community

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Santa Barbara County Office of Early Care and Education was established in 2000, with the goal of increasing the capacity, quality and accessibility of child care for all children in Santa Barbara County. The program is in its third year of funding from the FIRST 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission, through a grant to the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council, who developed the program, and shares oversight with the County.

Since its establishment, the Office of Early Care and Education has made strides in informing the community about the importance of early care and education, and garnering the support of government agencies, businesses and private bodies for those services. The Training and Retention stipends for early care and

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education providers have had enormous success in promoting the professional development of center-based teachers and family child care providers. The accreditation support project and technical assistance for centers and family child care homes have also contributed to measurable improvements in the capacity and quality of early care and education services available for children 0-5.

To better ensure that all children have access to high quality child care, and to further promote the close collaboration and mutual goals of the organizations supporting services for young children, the Child Care Planning Council proposes that the Office of Early Care and Education become a program of the First 5 Commission. Thus, the Office of Early Care and Education would remain at the County, but would become an internal program of the First 5 Commission rather than an external grant-funded program.

Should the Board approve this transfer, the Office of Early Care and Education will move its operations and staff from under County Administrator's General Fund programs and into the First 5 Commission's structure. The funding, goals, programs and objectives of the Office of Early Care and Education will be continued, but will the programs will be operated under First 5.

This transfer has the support of the County Administrator, Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council, First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County, and the Office of Early Care and Education.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No mandates or impacts to service levels with this action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

All funds for the Office of Early Care and Education will be moved from fund 0001 to fund 0010 as of July 1, 2004.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor Controller

CC:

Fran Forman, Chair, Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Pat Wheatley, First 5, Children and Families Commission, Santa Barbara County
Theo Fallati, Auditor Controller

Attachments: None