



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: Child Support Services  
Department No.: 045  
For Agenda Of: August 14, 2012  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 5 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: No Vote Required

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Carrie Topliffe (805) 568-2326  
Director:  
Contact Info: Shirley Moore (805) 568-2329

**SUBJECT:** Child Support Awareness Month

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file a presentation of Child Support Services.

**Summary Text:**

August has been celebrated as Child Support Awareness Month since President Clinton's 1995 federal proclamation. Locally, Child Support professionals will observe the month with a vigorous effort to regain contact with parents who are not paying their Child Support.

**Background:**

Almost 15,000 families are served through Santa Barbara's Child Support program, with the majority enjoying the security that comes from regular monthly payments. For those absent parents who are not paying, there can be many reasons for the lapse. Unfortunately, the automated enforcement remedies are not programmed to consider changing circumstances, and well intentioned non-payers can become embroiled in disastrous consequences, such as lost licenses, passport problems, liens and intercepts. For the month of August, Child Support professionals in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara will outreach to this population with enhanced office hours on Wednesdays (7 am to 6 pm). Cases can be reviewed for a change in payment amount or the possibility of writing off old balances, people can get help with license releases and employment resources. The Department will also use its expanded locate tools to find parents who have dropped out of sight.

**Performance Measure:**

This statewide effort will be tracked to evaluate its effect on the five performance measures by which every Child Support agency in the country is ranked: establishing parentage, obtaining orders, collecting current support, collecting past due support, and doing these actions in a cost effective manner. With efforts such as Child Support Awareness Month, Santa Barbara's ranking has continued to rise.

**Impacts:**

The Child Support Program is second only to the school system in the number of American children served. In Santa Barbara County last year, \$27 million in child support was collected and distributed.

**Fiscal Analysis:** N/A

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

**Attachments:**

**Authored by:**

Shirley Moore

**cc:**