

**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: 10/17/03
Department Name: Child Support Services
Department No.: 045
Agenda Date: 11/4/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Karin Roser
Department of Child Support Services

STAFF CONTACT: Marc Levine
ext. 2329

SUBJECT: Child Support Services Plan of Cooperation with the State Department of Child Support Services

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- (a.) Authorize the Director of the Department of Child support Services to approve and execute a Plan of Cooperation (POC), including the provisions of the Annual Automation Cooperation Agreement (AACA), between the State Department of Child Support Services and the Santa Barbara County Department of Child Support Services.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

This action is in alignment with County Goal #1-Efficient Government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community. This is also a necessary and routine measure required for maintaining effective business practices.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In accordance with Family Code Section 17304 (a) the Director of the State Department of Child Support Services is required to negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with county agencies to carry out the State Plan and provide services related to establishing paternity and the establishment, modification, and enforcement of child support orders. Likewise, Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10081 requires that local child support agencies (LCSAs) enter into an Annual Automation Cooperative Agreement with the State Department of Child Support Services that sets forth County Agency responsibilities and provides for automation funding to the local agency.

The State Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has reorganized, reformatted, and expanded what has been an ongoing Plan of Cooperation (POC) between the State Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the Santa Barbara County Department of Child Support Services (SB-DCSS) to meet these statutory requirements. This POC defines and allocates the responsibilities of the State Department of Child Support Services and the County Department of Child Support Services as they relate to securing child support including child support establishment, collections and distribution services; medical support; determining paternity; and providing other public services in accordance with the provisions of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 USC 651, et seq.). The effective date of the POC is November 1, 2003.

Significant changes in this POC include the following:

The POC now includes what used to be a separate agreement, the Annual Automation Cooperation Agreement (AACA). With this consolidation of the POC and AACA the SB-DCSS will only be required to execute a single agreement annually with DCSS.

As required by state regulation, the term of the POC is now concurrent with the federal fiscal year, and is effective for a one-year period.

A provision has been added regarding implementation of the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program. These provisions establish general program requirements and mirror the language included in AB 738 (Jackson), which was recently enacted.

Detailing of specific requirements related to the fiscal administration of the local program.

It should be noted that this Plan of Cooperation is linked to funding in both the administrative and automation allocation from the State Department of Child Support Services. Failure to enter into this agreement could result in the withholding of all or part of State and Federal funds.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no facilities impact. There is no fiscal impact to the County General Fund. State and Federal funding will reimburse the costs associated with this POC.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk will direct a certified copy of the Minute Order to the Department of Child Support Services Business Manager.

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
County Counsel