

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 6/2502
Department Name: ADMHS
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 8/6/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Naomi Schwartz
First District Supervisor
STAFF CONTACT: Tara Brown
681-5217
SUBJECT: **Recognizing CALM for outstanding achievement**

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive the results of the evaluation report of the Answers Benefiting Children (ABC) grant (June 1, 1999 – June 30, 2002) from the State Offices of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to the County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS).
- B. Recognize Child Abuse Listening Mediation’s (CALM) “Great Beginnings” program as the top ranked child abuse prevention home visitation pilot project in the State out of the seventeen participating counties.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 Ensure the Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Child Abuse Listening Mediation’s (CALM) “Great Beginnings” program was the top performer of all 17 pilot counties in the Answers Benefiting Children (ABC) State Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) grant funded through the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS).

This primary prevention program identifies medium risk families prenatally through five years of age and offers home visits by a home visitor. The home visitors work in multi-disciplinary teams, which include a drug and alcohol specialist, a family nurse practitioner, a child development specialist, and a child abuse treatment specialist. The team leader is a licensed, masters level professional. Clients are welcome at the Family Resource Center (FRC) which offers structured, community-based parenting classes.

The Great Beginnings' program outcomes are significant. CALM's "Great Beginnings" families showed improvement (statistically significant to five percent) in the areas of decreased substance abuse, decreased use of corporal punishment, and less parent-child role reversal. The program on which this is model is based is called Cal-SAHF (California Safe and Health Families). Cal-SAHF has clinically proven that home visiting also decreases maternal depression, causes a reduction in psychological aggression, and results in infants having more "well baby" doctor visits.

CALM rated 85.4% in implementation compared to the State-wide average of 77.6%. CALM's staff is above the State-average in the human resources climate, supervision, training, and the home visitation service delivery programs offered. The Great Beginnings Staff was ranked with the highest level of education for home visitors and specialists in the State.

The ABC grant targeted system change requiring a County-wide planning effort and public-private collaboration. ADMHS attempted to leverage EPDST funds with the "Great Beginnings" program but was only able to generate \$11,243 in additional funds. The Children and Families Commission has allocated \$115,000, United Way contributed \$26,000, and private parties have donated \$75,000 to continue the program. However, at least 50 medium risk families and young children will not be helped because of the approximate \$300,000 reduction in funding as the ABC grant ended June 30, 2002.

The strategic plan called for the expansion of this strategy to north county at a cost of \$450,000. There is no source of identified funds for expansion. However, there are several different home visiting projects using multi-disciplinary teams focusing on a slightly different, but at-risk population. These include the Multi-agency Integrated System of Care (MISC), Welcome Every Baby (WEB), Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) and the New Visitas program.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This program is not mandated.

The County will no longer provide administrative lead to the Great Beginnings program. The community-based service level will be reduced 50%.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No fiscal or facilities impact.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Public Health Department

**IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNIZING
CHILD ABUSE LISTENING MEDIATION (CALM)
AS THE TOP RANKED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
HOME VISITATION PILOT PROJECT IN THE STATE
BY THE OFFICE OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (OCAP)**

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Listening Mediation's (CALM) "Great Beginnings" program was the top performer of all 17 pilot counties in the Answers Benefiting Children (ABC) grant; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services partnered with CALM to offer this program in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, "Great Beginnings" families showed improvement (statistically significant to five percent) in the areas of decreased substance abuse, decreased use of corporal punishment, and less parent-child role reversal; and

WHEREAS, 98% of the 112 families served rated the "Great Beginnings" program as helpful in order to deal with problems; and

WHEREAS, 24% of the infants in this medium risk group were identified as having developmental delays in one or more domain, and these children received were referred to the federally-mandated, early intervention services through the Early Start Program at the Tri-Counties Regional Center; and

WHEREAS, 93% of the young children enrolled in the program are up to date on their immunizations and 91% are not exposed to second hand smoke in their homes; and

WHEREAS, CALM staff is above the State-average in the areas of human resources climate, supervision, training and the home visitation service delivery programs offered;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, AS IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED, that this Board of Supervisors recognizes CALM for outstanding achievement.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this twenty-third day of July, 2002, by unanimous vote of all members present.