



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Child Support Services
Department No.: 045
For Agenda Of: August 9, 2011
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 5 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No Vote Required

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Name & Phone
Director(s) Carrie Topliffe (805) 568-2326
Contact Info: Name & Phone
Carrie Topliffe (805) 568-2326

SUBJECT: Child Support Awareness Month

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

Receive and file an update on the benefits of the Child Support Program.

Summary Text:

This presentation corresponds with California Department of Child Support Services' Announcement of August as Child Support Awareness Month and focuses on the many tools available to parents for paying and receiving child support.

Background:

During this year's Child Support Awareness Month, child support professionals throughout the state will focus on educating parents and guardians about their options for paying and receiving child support. With account data available electronically, customers can access case information, make payments, and view account balances on-line and over the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These enhancements to the child support program make it easier for parents and guardians to get the information they need when they need it. In Santa Barbara County, there are about 2,000 custodial and non-custodial parents who are not taking advantage of these "self service" tools. These individuals will be the focus of our educational outreaches to increase their awareness of electronic options and how they can benefit by utilizing them.

Child support program services are delivered through a network of county and regional child support agencies that offer a wide range of services to parents, including providing assistance in locating a

parent; establishing paternity; establishing, modifying and enforcing a court order for child support; and establishing, modifying and enforcing an order for health coverage. To view the California Department of Child Support’s strategic plan, log on to www.childsup.ca.gov.

Performance Measure:

The Child Support Program of Santa Barbara County is evaluated in five key performance areas, related to establishing parentage, obtaining orders, collecting current support, collecting past due support, and doing these actions in a cost effective manner. As the department continues to adjust and refine its operations, its performance is improving.

Impacts: The Child Support Program serves one quarter of the nation’s children. In Santa Barbara, 15,000 families receive services from Child Support. Last year, \$26.2 million in child support was collected. Of that amount, \$21.7 million went directly to families, and \$4.5 million was returned to governmental entities to reimburse for governmental public assistance programs,

Budgeted: Select_Budgeted N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

| <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: