



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: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: September 13, 2016
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 45 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: N/A

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Director, Department of Social Services
Director(s)
Contact Info: Devin Drake, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services
(805) 346-8357

SUBJECT: Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan/Annual Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the Department of Social Services Child Welfare Services Annual Update; and,
- b) Determine that the execution of the Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) finding that the execution of the Agreement is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order for the Board to receive and file the Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services Annual Update.

Background:

As stated in the Response to the Child Welfare Safety Net Task Force report previously provided to the Board of Supervisors on June 7, 2016, the Department intends to submit a presentation annually to the Board inclusive of performance, improvements, challenges, and systemic issues in conjunction with the California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. Additionally the Department would like to provide an update to the Board on two critical issues impacting Child Welfare Services, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

California Children and Family Services Review (CFSR)

The purpose of the CFSR is to both strengthen accountability and to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of youth in the foster care system. As such, the CFSR operates on a philosophy of setting strategic goals, continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting of county performance on the following Federal and State Measures:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services adequate to meet their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

The principal components of the CFSR Process include: 1) County Self-Assessment (CSA), 2) County System Improvement Plan (SIP), and 3) County System Improvement Plan Progress Reports (SIP Progress Reports).

The System Improvement Plan (SIP) serves as the operational agreement between the State and the County defining actions the County will implement to improve outcomes for children and families based on the findings in the CSA. The SIP focus is on efforts to improve performance on three primary Outcome Measures: No Recurrence of Maltreatment, Reunification within 12 months, and Placement Stability. The attached SIP Progress Report (Attachment A) submitted to the California Department of Social Services on August 30, 2016 will be the final update to the current SIP as the Department begins preparing for its next five year CFSR Process (2017-2022).

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Senate Bill 855 (Statutes of 2014) clarified Child Welfare Dependency Code to include commercially sexually exploited children as dependents. In addition it established the optional state CSEC Program which provides funding to participating counties for prevention and intervention services, and training related to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. SB 855 further requires Child Welfare to lead a team comprised of representatives from Probation, Public Health, Behavioral

Wellness, and the Juvenile Court in the development of an Interagency Protocol. In 2015, in an ongoing effort to meet the requirements of SB 855, the Department in collaboration with the Human Trafficking Task Force, the CSEC Court, and other community based agencies, formed the CSEC steering committee. The steering committee has continued to meet monthly, while working closely together in the development of an Interagency Protocol designed to effectively serve CSEC youth by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach for case management, service planning, and the provision of services. The Board is respectfully referred to the attached draft Santa Barbara County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment B).

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

Assembly Bill (AB) 403, amended June 1, 2015, implements Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) recommendations to better serve children and youth in California's Child Welfare Services (CWS) system. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) draws together a series of existing and new reforms to child welfare services, probation and mental health programs designed out of an understanding that children who must live apart from their parents have better outcomes when cared for in committed nurturing family homes. The CCR seeks to further improve California's child welfare system and its outcomes by using comprehensive initial child assessments, expanding the use of child and family teams (CFT), increasing the availability of services and supports in home-based family care settings, reducing the use of congregate care placement settings, and creating faster paths to permanency resulting in shorter durations of involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Implementation efforts for CCR will occur in stages between now and 2021 in child welfare services. In order to meet the challenges of CCR the Department has formed internal and interagency workgroup structures to develop a framework for cross-agency teaming in order to serve children and families. The Board is respectfully referred to the attached CCR fact sheet for more detailed information about CCR (Attachment C).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – CWS System Improvement Plan September 1, 2016 (Draft)

Attachment B – Santa Barbara County CSEC Program MOU (Draft)

Attachment C – CCR Fact Sheet

Authored by:

Amy Krueger, Division Chief, Department of Social Services