

**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: 7/1/02
Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 07/23/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: n/a
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Charlene A. Chase, Director
Department of Social Services

STAFF CONTACT: Hedy Damery, 614-1990
KIDS Network, c/o DSS-SM

SUBJECT: KIDS Network Annual Report: 2001-2002

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Accept the Annual Report of the KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County for 2001-2002.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7, A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The KIDS Network was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1991 to serve as Santa Barbara County's interagency coordinating council for children, youth and family services, and to be the Board's primary community advisory body on children, youth and family issues.

In July 2002 the KIDS Network completed its eleventh year of service to the Board and the community. We are pleased to present the Board with this Annual Report as a summary of the major activities and accomplishments of the KIDS Network since its inception, with special emphasis on the year just concluded. The Annual Report provides us with a means of holding ourselves accountable to you and to the community.

We wish to recognize and appreciate the work of the members of the KIDS Network, both past and present. These members of the community have been contributing their time and energy to address children, youth

and family issues in Santa Barbara County since the Network was formed and deserve our thanks for their share in the achievements of the Network.

Acknowledgment:

The members of the KIDS Network wish to thank the Board of Supervisors for the consistent, strong support it has shown for children, youth and family issues and urges the Board to continue its tradition of making children and their needs a high priority in Santa Barbara County.

Mandates and Service Levels:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

After passage by the Board of Supervisors, please send one (1) certified copy of the Minute Order to KIDS Network, c/o Dept. of Social Services, Santa Maria, Carmen Lane, Attention: Hedy Damery.

Concurrence:

County Administrator

Attachment: Annual Report and Appendices, 16 pgs.

Santa Barbara County
KIDS NETWORK

2001-2002 ANNUAL REPORT



- The Vision for Children -

“All children will grow up in safe, healthy and nurturing homes, schools and communities. Their resultant sense of self-worth, along with equal access to resources, will empower children to develop their unique potential, with a strong sense of responsibility to self, culture and society.”

KIDS Network

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A. Structure and Staffing

The KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1991 under California's Interagency and Children's Services Act of 1989 (SB 997) and conforms with the provisions of Welfare & Institutions Code (Sections 18986 et al). The Network is housed in the Department of Social Services and is staffed by a fulltime Coordinator and Assistant. Two primary organizational bodies interact to carry out the mission of the Network, the **Policy Council** and an **Advisory Committee**. Standing committees and task forces work with Network staff in areas of planning, program development, data collection and analysis, special projects and various publications. During the past year the Network's members revised their organizational structure and by-laws to be more inclusive of the county-wide collaboratives that have emerged in recent years and which now play a key role in the coordination of services to children, youth and families in Santa Barbara County. (See **Appendix A: KIDS Network Org Chart**)

B. Mission

The KIDS Network mission is to provide comprehensive, collaborative community services to children, youth and families by

- improving coordination, planning, communication and cooperation among service agencies;
- identifying gaps and overlaps in services;
- providing a forum for clarifying perceptions and expectations among and between county agencies and the community;
- setting priorities for interagency projects;
- implementing collaborative programs, public and private, to better serve children, youth and families; and
- attracting resources from both the public and private sectors to meet children, youth and families' needs.

C. Policy

When the KIDS Network was formed in 1991, the Board of Supervisors also approved the County of Santa Barbara **Policy on Children, Youth and Families** (last revised in 1996). This document provides a philosophical background and states the commitment of our county to those actions that foster the well being of children, youth and families in every area of life in our communities, from the environment to the workplace. The Policy also serves as a template and valuable guide for Network activities. During 2003 the Network intends to return to the Board of Supervisors to request that the new Board re-affirm support for the Policy.

D. Membership

The KIDS Policy Council membership, as defined in the recently revised by-laws, includes representation from a broad range of public and private entities and groups working at the policy and planning level. Of the thirty-seven seats, six are reserved for non-profit community-based agency representatives and three for school district representatives appointed by the County Superintendent's Council.

Participation in the KIDS Advisory Committee is open to anyone with an interest in the mission. Regular participation in the activities of the Network is the only condition for continued membership. (See **Appendix B: KIDS Network Membership Lists**)

E. Meetings

The Policy Council meets bi-monthly and the Advisory Committee quarterly, with joint meetings and workshops held twice a year in June and December. All meetings and activities of the Network are open to the public and comply with the requirements of the Brown Act.

F. Ongoing Activities

- ✓ **CLEARINGHOUSE:** The Network Office serves as a county-wide clearinghouse of information, data repository and technical assistance provider for planning and program development, local needs assessments, data collection, grant-writing, and resource development around children, youth and family needs.
- ✓ **PUBLICATIONS:** A quarterly newsletter, *The KIDS News*, with a circulation of about 1200, provides regular updates on collaborative activities and information about resources for parents and service providers. The *Annual Survey of Children, Youth and Family Networks and Coordinating Councils in California* is carried out and published by Network staff each year. The Network's most popular publication is the *Children's Scorecard*, published annually since 1994, containing indicators on the condition of children, youth and families in Santa Barbara County. In recent years this report has received national attention, with requests for copies coming from as far away as New York and Virginia. Each year new indicators are added as they become available.
- ✓ **COORDINATION:** In 1995 the Network was designated as the county's planning and advisory body for the Family Preservation and Support Program (FPSP), federal funding provided under the Family Support Act. KIDS Network staff manages the FPSP contracts, monitors outcomes for the program and provides annual reports to the state. KIDS Network serves as the needs assessment arm of the Child Abuse Prevention Council, participates in the Leadership Team for the Children and Families Commission and serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the Child Care Planning Council.
- ✓ **COLLABORATION:** Since 1991, the Network has been a source of support and technical assistance for collaborative planning and proposal development for our

county's major youth-serving initiatives. Network members and staff were directly involved in planning and start-up efforts leading to the Multiagency Integrated System of Care (MISC), Healthy Start programs in twelve school districts, the Juvenile Crime Prevention Demonstration program, two Challenge Grants, the ABC/Great Beginnings child abuse prevention initiative and the County's Children and Families Commission.

G. Funding

KIDS Network's 2001-02 program budget in the Department of Social Services was approximately \$170,000. This covered staff salaries, benefits and overhead, services and supplies, training, travel and publication costs. The sources of Network funding are a combination of county departmental budgets, grant funds, outside revenue and in-kind contributions. (See **Appendix C: 2001-2002 KIDS Network Financial Status Summary, FIN Report**)

H. Major Accomplishments, 1991-2002

During the past eleven years, the members of the KIDS Network have seen their efforts bear fruit and improve the lives of children, youth and families in Santa Barbara County. The Network has grown in number, diversity and strength and is widely acknowledged as a strong centralizing force for positive change. As a countywide collaborative planning and advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, the members take their responsibilities very seriously.

KIDS members work to educate the community about children and family issues; seek out and respond to community input; build consensus about priorities, goals and strategies; collect and analyze data and promote increased accountability through the development of program and community outcome measures.

The members of the KIDS Network, both individually and collectively, have been instrumental in bringing about the following list of Santa Barbara County's major achievements in the area of children, youth and family services:

✓ **Children's Scorecard for Santa Barbara County**

Published annually since 1994, expanded editions have been produced since 1998. In 2001, KIDS and UCSB invited the Children and Families Commission to become a full partner in expanding the Scorecard to add more baselines and outcomes for the 0-5 population. New indicators were added for child care capacity, prenatal care, infant mortality and Star Test results. In 2002 new indicators are planned for health care access, dental needs and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's).

✓ **Child Friendly Awards**

Since 1991, seventy-five individuals, groups and businesses have been honored with awards from the Board of Supervisors. In 2000, the new category of Child Friendly Group was added and in 2002 three groups were recognized with this award.

✓ **School-linked Service Programs**

Thirteen Healthy Start programs have been funded in Santa Barbara County since 1991. In 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1999, all of our county's applications were funded; in 1998 three out of four were funded and in 2000 two out of three were funded. In late 2001 the State suspended grant awards during the budget deficit crisis. Reinstatement in 2002 for new operational grants is pending at this writing.

Santa Barbara County has four state-funded Before and After School Learning and Safe Neighborhood Partnership Programs (BASLSNPP) located in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Isla Vista (new in 2001) and Los Alamos. In 2002 KIDS assisted local school districts with applications for major federal funding under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. Grant awards are to be announced in September 2002.

The Network carries out advocacy on the local and state level to help our county's school-linked programs achieve sustainability. KIDS produces and annually updates a Healthy Start Funding Matrix as a planning tool and keeps a roster of our county's Healthy Start and After School contacts. The KIDS Coordinator serves as a member of the Executive Board for the Region 8 Healthy Start & After School Network.

✓ **Child Care Planning Council**

KIDS has participated in and supported the County's Child Care Planning Council from its inception in 1991. KIDS provided leadership and support in 1998-99 during the Council's transition from voluntary to mandated status under welfare reform. In 2000 and 2001 KIDS served as Vice-Chair. In 2001 the Council completed a Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education and took the lead in establishing the County of Santa Barbara's first Office of Early Care and Education. During the past year, KIDS served as the Board of Supervisor's Liaison to the Council and member of the Council's Steering and Membership Committees.

✓ **Parent Resource Guide**

More than 52,000 printed copies were distributed between 1993 and 1996. The Parent Resource Guide was put on-line at the KIDS Network Web site in 1997 and was last updated in 1998. During 2000-2001 KIDS worked with Family Service Agency's CRIS Helpline program to subsume this information into their new web-based searchable countywide electronic information network.

✓ **Survey of Children's Networks & Councils in California**

Annual statewide surveys have been conducted since 1994, with thirty counties participating in 2001 and two more planned for addition in 2002. The latest edition is currently being updated and will be ready for distribution by September. This document provided input for a 2001 study of County Collaboratives published by Sid Gardner, Director of the Center for Collaboration for Children at Cal State Fullerton and has been cited as a valuable resource for the California Children and Families Commission and the Foundation Consortium.

✓ **Multiagency Integrated System of Care (MISC)**

Since 1992 KIDS members and staff have participated in planning and implementation of our county's system of care program for high-risk children. During 2000-2001 KIDS participated in special workshops focused on restructuring and long-term sustainability. During the past year KIDS continued its participation in the MISC Cross-Agency Supervisors meetings.

In 2002, KIDS began participating in an Early Childhood Mental Health planning process organized by the Children and Families Commission, serving as member of a data analysis and needs assessment committee.

✓ **Family Preservation and Support Program (FPSP)**

A Five-Year FPSP Plan for 1994-98 was written and administered by KIDS for nearly one million dollars in federal family support funding. A Three-Year FPSP Plan and Budget for 1999-2001 was completed in 1999 for \$1,045,000 in re-authorized federal funding. A new Three-Year Plan FPSP Plan for 2002-2005 was completed in 2002 for approximately one-and-a-half million in re-authorized federal funding.

KIDS manages the contracts for FPSP funding and reports outcomes to the state annually. FPSP funding contributes directly to both MISC and Healthy Start sustainability. In early 2003 KIDS will conduct a review of the program's priorities in conjunction with the county's Child Abuse Prevention Council, Family Violence Prevention Council and Child Welfare Services. Beginning in 2003 the program will be called "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" (PSSF) to conform with a federal and state name change.

✓ **Healthy Families Insurance Program**

KIDS coordinated all training and program information during the important first six months of this new children's health insurance program in early 1999. KIDS members and staff continue to work closely with Public Health and others in the county's Healthy Families/Medi-Cal Outreach Collaborative.

✓ **Children and Families Commission (Prop. 10)**

KIDS assisted the County Administrator's Office with staffing support for implementing the new Commission in early 1999 and continued with support and coordination during the Commission's strategic planning and implementation phase. KIDS staff are now co-located with the North County Commission staff at the Carmen Lane offices in Santa Maria.

KIDS participated in a 2000 Outcomes Task Force for the State Children and Families Commission and is an active member of our local Commission's Leadership Team. In 2001-02 the Leadership Team participated with members of the Commission and its Advisory Committee in the Results for Children Initiative directed at fostering "Inclusive Accountability".

✓ **Legislative Committee (LegCom)**

Since 1998, KIDS LegCom has worked within a defined scope of interest to identify, track and advocate for state legislation that positively impacts our county's ability to implement and sustain coordinated, collaborative services to children, youth and families. In 2001, the first KIDS Legislative Platform and Policy document was created to streamline the Committee's advocacy efforts. The Platform is now updated prior to each year's Legislative Session. (See **Appendix D: 2002 Legislative Platform and Policy Positions**)

- ✓ **Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Youth Council**
Since March 2000, KIDS Network has participated in Santa Barbara County's WIB Youth Council's programming under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). KIDS currently serves as a member of the Council and its Proposal Review Committee.
- ✓ **Adult and Aging Network**
In 1999 and 2000 KIDS provided consultation and technical assistance during the design and restructuring of the County of Santa Barbara's Adult and Aging Network and the publication of their first "Scorecard". KIDS is co-located and works closely with AAN staff at the Carmen Lane offices.
- ✓ **Family Resource Center Matrix**
In 2000, KIDS staff and members worked with members of the Family Services Council to identify the definition and role of Family Resource Centers (FRC's) in our county's human service delivery system. KIDS collected input and created an FRC Matrix that is now updated annually.
- ✓ **KIDS Advisory Committee Email Group**
In 2001 the near-universality of email among members made possible the establishment of a KIDS Advisory Committee email group. This offers participants continuous updates and information items including data reports, job announcements, job-seeker resumes, grant information, meeting or workshop notices, training opportunities, collaborative projects, and information about new or emerging family resources. Members are invited to post items with KIDS staff support.
- ✓ **Family Violence Prevention**
In 2000-2001 KIDS supported the establishment of a countywide Office of Family Violence Prevention in Public Health, as called for in the county's Strategic Plan for Family Violence Prevention. When the Office closed in 2002, KIDS worked with Human Service Division staff to assume some of the OFVP responsibilities and continue its mission. KIDS participates in several regional partnership meetings and is a member of the countywide Family Violence Prevention Council.
- ✓ **Network By-laws Changes**
The KIDS Network Policy Council membership has been revised to include representation from all countywide collaborative planning and advisory bodies for children, youth and family services. The KIDS Network by-laws were amended to

reflect the proposed changes and were approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2002.

I. Outcomes for 2001-2002

Two key areas were identified for special attention and action during the past year:

✓ School Success

KIDS conducted a series of activities in support of the KIDS Network **Theme for 2001-2002**, which is “*...doing whatever it takes to prepare our children for school and keep them in school, learning and graduating prepared for adulthood.*” This included special focus sessions on theme-related topics at both the Policy Council and Advisory Committee meetings. An especially powerful workshop on “Latina Futures” was hosted by the Advisory Committee in October 2001.

✓ Child Abuse

KIDS Network worked closely with the Human Services Division staff in Public Health and the state Office of Child Abuse Prevention to collect input from all stakeholders for implementation of a **Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Council** in Santa Barbara County. The CAPC is built on existing infrastructure to minimize duplication of effort and to streamline and coordinate processes for child abuse needs assessments, planning, priority-setting, funding operations and data collection.

In 2002 CAPC by-laws were drafted and approved by the Board of Supervisors and changes were made to the KIDS by-laws to accommodate the new role it plays in the CAPC. In the Spring of 2002 KIDS Network co-sponsored a CAPC “kick-off” event featuring a nationally recognized expert on recent trends in child welfare services. In April the CAPC launched a broad-based child abuse and family violence prevention media campaign with support from the Children’s Trust Fund.

✓ School Readiness

KIDS Network assisted the Children and Families Commission with the implementation of a **School Readiness Initiative** for pre-school children and their families in targeted high-risk areas of our county. Work was carried forward on a Pre-K assessment instrument being implemented in the majority of our county’s school districts served by Healthy Start programs. KIDS also participated in the planning process leading to the start up of the county’s “Welcome Every Baby” newborn home-visiting program.

J. The Goals for 2002-2003

During the coming year, KIDS Network will continue its efforts in the areas named above, and in addition, will focus special effort in three key areas:

⇒ **Advocacy for Keeping the System Whole in Challenging Fiscal Times**

The Fiscal Strategies Committee, an ad hoc task force organized by KIDS in mid-2001, will continue its work leading to a better understanding of the nature and extent of recent and pending fiscal impacts on the county's system of services to children, youth and families. In October 2002 the Committee will reconvene to assess the results of final state and federal budget decisions and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

⇒ **Revision of KIDS Network Strategic Plan**

The current Network Strategic Plan (1999-2002) and Theme both expire this year and will need to be revisited by the membership. The timing of this is recommended to be subsequent to the Board of Supervisors' appointment of a new Policy Council Chairperson in January and the hiring of a new coordinator in April.

K. Summary

In addition to the listed accomplishments, since 1991 the members of the KIDS Network have developed a shared history, an increased understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, and a higher level of mutual respect and trust. This has contributed to a significant increase in the amount and quality of collaboration among our county's service providers and members of the community. Our quarterly newsletter, the KIDS NEWS, seeks to increase our community's awareness of children, youth and family needs and to build understanding and support for collaborative efforts. The KIDS Network Web Site provides members and the community with information about resources and opportunities. KIDS also sponsors or co-sponsors forums, speakers, panels, study groups, and task forces to address key issues, educate members and the public, and develop consensus about recommendations for action. The Policy Council works closely with its Advisory Committee, which includes members from many sectors of the community.

The KIDS Network is made up of people who have made the welfare of our children, youth and families a priority and who consistently demonstrate that concern through their actions.

List of Appendices:

- A. KIDS Network Org Chart
- B. KIDS Network Member Lists
- C. 2001-02 KIDS Network Financial Status Summary (FIN Report)
- D. 2002 KIDS Network Legislative Platform and Policy Positions