

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-3

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE October 28, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclaim the Month of November 2008 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the month of November 2008 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month.
2. Request the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Present a Resolution to various adoptive agencies representatives who are headquartered in Stanislaus County at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on November 4, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-734

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Monteith, and Vice-Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Grover, and Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Each year, the month of November is celebrated as National Adoption Awareness Month. During this time, the State and its counties engage in activities to promote awareness of the need for adoptive and permanent homes for the youth in temporary living situations such as foster care. There are seven adoption agencies in Stanislaus County that place children in permanent homes, Aspiranet Foster & Adoption Services, Bethany Christian Services, Family Connections Christian Adoptions, Families First, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Koinonia Family Services and the Community Services Agency, Child and Family Services Division.

Stanislaus County Community Services Agency's (CSA) commitment to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is to place sixty-six (66) children in adoptive homes each year. During Fiscal Year 2007-2008, eighty-four (84) adoptions were finalized in our agency. This means that eighty-four children who were unable to reunify with their biological parents have found "forever families" through adoption. The number of children formerly supervised by the agency and now being raised in adoptive homes continues to exceed the number of children currently residing in foster care.

CSA's vision is to continue to develop and provide the most comprehensive adoption program, which facilitates the utilization of supportive services during every aspect of the adoption process.

Post Adoption Services are an important source of support to families once the adoption has been finalized. This past year's post adoption services have included:

Adoption Assistance Program

This program continually assesses families and implements federal grant funding that can provide financial assistance to adoptive families to meet the basic needs of the child, special needs assistance and medical.

Adoption Speaker Dinner

The dinner provides for an educational speaker on topics relevant to adoptive families and an opportunity for adoptive parents to network.

Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. (A Life with Adoption Yields Success)

This year, the adoption unit, in partnership with Adopt a Special Kid, an adoption agency in Oakland, held a five day/ four night family camp at Camp Oski near Pinecrest Lake. Approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) family members attended and enjoyed the camp's many activities. This camp has received national recognition as well as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge award.

Support Group

This group meets once a month and provides a forum for families to discuss issues that impact families touched by adoption and to build upon the adoption community.

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YMCA Camperships

In 2008, Promote Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funding was provided to enable children of families who have adopted to participate in their choice of an overnight youth camp (of 3-7 days) at YMCA's Camp Jack Hazard or a two-week session of YMCA's children's day camp program. During the summer of 2008, 111 children of our adoptive families participated in these programs.

Learning Library

The learning library housed at Family Connections Christian Adoptions is an ever-expanding resource, which enables anyone in Stanislaus County an avenue to gain knowledge regarding adoption issues that impact individuals touched by adoption.

Resource Book

The resource book is a living document whose purpose is to provide an on-going guide to the community and national resources that could benefit individuals impacted by adoption. The resource book is available at the Learning Library.

Web Page

The Stanislaus County adoption page is accessed through the Stanislaus County webpage. This evolving resource gives the viewer an overview of what adoption services our agency provides.

The agency is requesting that the Board of Supervisors proclaim November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County. The resolution will be presented to various adoptive agencies that are headquartered in Stanislaus County, at the November 4, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting.

POLICY ISSUE:

Proclaiming November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month honors the Adoptive families, staff, and agencies' contributions to the Board's priority of a healthy community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.