

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

CMA

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-5

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE October 27, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclaim the Month of November 2009 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the month of November 2009 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 3, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-713

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X 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 2008-2009, sixty-nine (69) adoptions were finalized in our agency. This means that sixty-nine 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.

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.

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

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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 3, 2009 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.

Proclaim the Month of November 2009 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes the essential value of belonging to a secure, loving, permanent family as every child's basic right; and

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes the outstanding work of Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Social Service Staff who placed sixty-nine (69) children in adoptive homes during the last fiscal year and exceeded the State target of sixty-six (66) adoptive placements for the ninth consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize all private adoption agencies within Stanislaus County committed to finding permanent homes for children in need of safe, loving homes.

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor the dedicated families who have opened their hearts and their homes to provide love and support for many of our communities' children; and

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to commend the network of committed social workers, community service providers and county agencies for their dedication and support of the families and the adopted children in their homes; and

WHEREAS, Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month gives this community a chance to honor the dedicated relatives, foster families, other adoptive families, social workers, public and private adoption services and community partners who have worked together to ensure a better life for many of our county's children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim November 2009 as **Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month**.