

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

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *B-3

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE January 19, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval of a Request to Sponsor a Bill to Authorize an Increase in Fees for Certified Copies of Certain Vital Records up to a Maximum of \$2, Allocated for the Purpose of Family Justice Center Related Services

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve a request to sponsor a bill to increase fees for certified copies of certain vital records up to a maximum of \$2, dedicated to Family Justice Center related services.
2. Authorize the Chief Executive Office to submit the Board's request to Peterson Consulting, the County's lobbyist.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The additional \$2 is estimated to generate approximately \$64,000 annually, based on 32,000 copies. This amount will be used to fund costs related to Family Justice Center services. Up to four percent of the increase will be available for administrative costs associated with collecting the fee.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-038

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

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

Noes: Supervisors: Monteith, and DeMartini

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

This Item was removed from the consent calendar for discussion and consideration.



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The Family Justice Center model would provide for the co-location of services to support victims of abuse, enabling them to go to a single location, tell their story one time, and get the services and assistance they need. At least 10 agencies in Stanislaus County, both private and public, have committed to this project. It is a collaborative effort of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals focused on addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or elder abuse, and would offer a combination of programs, services and interventions at a single location.

Stanislaus County receives approximately 25% more domestic violence calls to law enforcement than the statewide average. Each year, more than 3,000 domestic violence calls of sexual assault are reported, and more than 10,000 cases are referred through child welfare.

The Family Justice Center model has proven effective in several California communities. As an example, the San Diego Family Justice Center reports that since 2002 the cooperation of victims to support prosecution of offenders has increased from 25% to 75%. Since the day the San Diego Family Justice Center began operations, no client has been a victim of a domestic violence related homicide. Clients express high levels of satisfaction with the services delivered through the Family Justice Center and report increased safety in their lives. The Family Justice Center significantly improves the ability of police to investigate violent crimes, resulting in increased convictions and higher numbers of abusers completing mandatory rehabilitation programs. These results are replicated in all of the 15 Family Justice Centers implemented via the President's Family Justice Center Initiative of 2003.

Currently, Alameda and Solano Counties, and the City of Berkeley, are collecting a \$2 fee to support their Family Justice Centers. This is in addition to the 92% of the \$11 fee currently allocated for activities relating to domestic violence prevention, intervention and prosecution. Under the recently Chaptered Senate Bill 635, Sonoma County received approval to, effective January 1, 2010, start collecting the fee

The new fee, if supported by the Board of Supervisors and approved by the legislature and administration, would be charged as part of fees for certified copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records and death records. The revenue generated from this fee would fund a portion of the Family Justice Center operations and services including advocacy, basic needs, counseling/support, crisis intervention, employment and financial assistance (as well as information and referral to other community services), housing and

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shelter assistance, law enforcement and prosecution, legal assistance service, and medical care/mental health counseling.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Stanislaus County Clerk Recorder Lee Lundrigan has indicated her opposition to the proposal, indicating the following: "I am aware of strong opposition by CRAC (County Recorder Assoc. of CA) members of the counties you mention. As the elected Recorder of Stanislaus I am opposed to this proposal as the increase of recorder fees to pay for unassociated services or benefits is not prudent nor associated with the mandated public requirement of this office to maintain, preserve and provide county official and vital records under its management and control for the public who require our services."

The existence and sustainability of the Family Justice Center fulfills the Board of Supervisors priority of A safe community, Effective partnerships and Efficient delivery of public services.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing District Attorney staff will continue to lead this effort along with working with other County departments and private partners.