

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

*CCA*  
DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # \*A-3

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE October 18, 2011

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Proclaim the Month of November 2011 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the month of November 2011 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 8, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2011-631

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow

and approved by the following vote,

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

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.

**DISCUSSION:**

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 forty-four (44) children in adoptive homes each year. During Fiscal Year 2010-2011, eighty-two (82) adoptions were finalized in our agency. This means that eighty-two (82) 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.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm, Stanislaus County, Stanislaus County Superior Court and Foster & Adoptive Care Team (F.A.C.T.) will be sponsoring a Celebration of Adoption at McClatchy Square & Rose Garden in Modesto. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from adoptive families and to learn more about getting involved with foster care and adoption in our community. Attendees can participate in activities and families who have adopted in the last year will be recognized.

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 maintained by Family Connections Christian Adoptions is a resource, which enables anyone in Stanislaus County an avenue to gain knowledge regarding adoption issues that impact individuals touched by adoption.

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**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 8, 2011 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.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Christine C. Applegate, Director 558-2500