



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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-4b

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE March 25, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclaim the Month of April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the Month of April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2014-123

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

and approved by the following vote,

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

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:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, calling attention to the special role that the Community Services Agency and its community partners play in child abuse prevention.

Nationwide, there were an estimated 1,545 child fatalities in 2011 and four-fifths (81.6%) of child fatality victims were younger than four years. The number of abused and neglected children continues to rise each year. For fiscal year 2011, more than 3.7 million children were the subjects of at least one report nationwide. During Fiscal Year 2012-2013 in Stanislaus County Child Welfare referred 4,566 families for services to Family Resource Centers and 7,633 children were involved in a child abuse investigation.

Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, community agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community. Prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage youth to develop strong ties to their communities. All residents of Stanislaus County should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment. The Agency desires to bring to the attention of all citizens the importance of child abuse prevention, including services provided in collaboration with the Departments of Probation, Health Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, District Attorney's Office, Children and Families Commission and our many community partners.

In April 2013 The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) sponsored the Lisa Project to come to Stanislaus County. This exhibit that was held at the Mall in Modesto showcased the environment that abused and neglected children live in as well as resources throughout Stanislaus County where families could get help. Approximately 1660 people toured the exhibit; some made commitments to volunteer and make a difference in Stanislaus County.

CAPC also continues to provide County match to draw down State and Federal funds for Child Welfare program core services allowing the Agency to continue Differential Response services throughout Stanislaus County. This was a five year commitment ending in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

For the past 10 years CAPC has sponsored an art contest for school age children to bring the attention to child abuse and services in the community to prevent the abuse. This year CAPC is changing their focus to work with community members to have a shared vision of strong families living in supportive communities. To begin the process CAPC is sponsoring an initiative to introduce and expand Strengthening Families and the five protective factors in

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Stanislaus County. Strengthening Families is a research informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Strengthening Families is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors which include parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and social-emotional competence of children.

POLICY ISSUE:

Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month to promote community awareness of child abuse and neglect and confirms the Agency's effort to meet the Board's priority of ensuring A Safe Community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn Harwell, Director. Telephone: 558-2500

WHEREAS, statistics of children who are abused and neglected escalate each year;

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among the Community Services Agency, schools, religious and community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community;

WHEREAS, youth-oriented prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage youth to develop strong ties to their communities;

WHEREAS, all residents of Stanislaus County should be supportive of children being raised in a safe, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, the Children's Memorial Day Flag honors the memory of children who have been victimized by violence and raises public awareness of this tragedy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim **April 2014 as Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Month.**