

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-5b

AGENDA DATE: May 2, 2017

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2017-215

On motion of Supervisor DeMartini, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Withrow, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

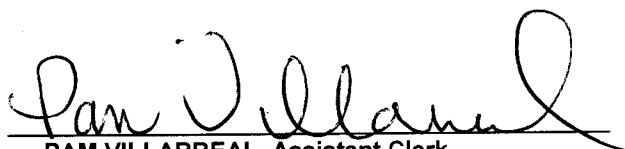
1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST:

PAM VILLARREAL, Assistant Clerk

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency
Urgent Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-5b

AGENDA DATE: May 2, 2017

CEO CONCURRENCE: *ph*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month.

DISCUSSION:

Historically, the Governor and the California Legislature have proclaimed May as Foster Care Awareness Month, calling attention to the special role that foster parents and relative/non-related extended care providers play in providing nurturing care to children who are separated from their birth families due to abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

On January 1, 2017, the California State Department of Social Services implemented statewide the Resource Family Approval Program (RFA). The RFA program provides a single, unified approval standard, family friendly and child-centered process to replace the existing multiple processes for licensing foster family homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers and approving families for legal guardianship for adoption. Foster care caregivers upon approval are now called Resource Family. RFA is a key component of Continuum Care Reform (CCR). CCR is a comprehensive reform authorized by Assembly Bill 403 to ensure that foster children and youth's physical and emotional needs are met in permanent and supportive homes and that they have an opportunity to grow into self-sufficient, successful adults. RFA will improve the way caregivers are approved and will provide training to them to better meet the needs of children and youth in their care. Stanislaus County participated in the early implementation of RFA as a Cohort II county with an implementation date of April 1, 2017.

In Stanislaus County, there are currently 61 foster homes licensed by the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency who are playing a vital role in serving children in this community. These foster parents and the Stanislaus County Foster Parent Association are committed to providing quality care to 72 children who, for a variety of reasons, cannot be with their parents or relatives. This is a very important and often challenging service. With the implementation of RFA, there are currently 26 approved Resource Families. There are 36 children residing in RFA approved homes.

Several Foster Family Agencies that are licensed by the State provide care for approximately 335 Stanislaus County dependent children.

Approval to Proclaim May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month

In addition to the children placed in county and state licensed foster homes, approximately 96 children are placed with relative/non-related extended family members. All of the care providers have extended their hearts and homes to care for children who, for a variety of reasons, cannot be with their parents or legal caretakers.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed May as Foster Care Awareness Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 operating budget for the Community Services Agency includes \$22.5 million for the administration of and services connected to foster care. Federal and State revenue of \$7.5 million and 2011 Realignment revenue of \$6.4 million will offset the planned program expenditures. The County Match requirement of \$8.6 million will be funded with \$7.6 million of 1991 Realignment and \$1.0 million of General Fund. The Community Services Agency 2016-2017 Mid-Year budget includes sufficient appropriations and estimated revenue to support the current year program casework staff activities.

There is no additional cost to the General Fund associated with this agenda item.

Cost of recommended action:		<u>\$22, 534,779</u>
Source(s) of Funding:		
Federal and State Foster Care funding	\$7,525,208	
2011 Realignment funding	\$6,362,136	
1991 Realignment funding	\$7,592,281	
CSA Existing County Match	<u>\$1,055,154</u>	
Funding Total:		<u>\$ 22,534,779</u>
Net Cost to County General Fund		<u>\$ -</u>

Fiscal Year:	2016/2017
Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:	No

Fund Balance as of N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action supports the Boards' priorities of A Safe Community and A Healthy Community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director (209) 558-2500

ATTACHMENT(S):

Proclamation

Proclaiming May 2017 as Foster Care Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is aware of the valuable service that the resource families, including relative/non-related extended family members, of this county give to physically and sexually abused, neglected and exploited foster children throughout the year; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor all the resource parents including relative/non-related extended family members within the county for their consistent commitment to children unable to remain in their own homes; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the parenting skills as well as the knowledge base regarding foster children, which are necessary to succeed in foster parenting; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors desires to bring to the attention of all citizens the importance of a professional foster family service system that includes recruitment, screening, licensing, training, and a professional partnership with the Community Services Agency; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors acknowledges the importance of community-wide support to continue this important part of the Child Welfare Services systems; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors joins with the California State Legislature and the Governor in commending resource families, including relatives/non-related extended family members for their service to children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare the month of May 2017 as **FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** in recognition that the Community Services Agency and all the resource families, including relative/non-related extended family members help make Stanislaus County a better place for children and families.