

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA:4.A.3
AGENDA DATE: May 1, 2018

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2018 as Foster Care Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0188

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa Seconded by Supervisor Monteith
and approved by the following vote,

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

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:


ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA:4.A.3
AGENDA DATE: May 1, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: Yes

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2018 as Foster Care Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Proclaim May 2018 as Foster Care Awareness Month in Stanislaus County.

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 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 relative/non-related extended family member homes as foster care providers, and approving families for legal guardianship for adoption. Foster Care caregivers, upon approval, are now called Resource Parents. RFA is a key component of Continuum of 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 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, 2016.

With the implementation of CCR and RFA, the state mandated that all current licensed foster homes and relative/non-related extended family members have two years to convert to an RFA home. Stanislaus County began this conversion process in June of 2017. As of April 1, 2018, 22 licensed foster homes and one relative/non-related extended family member home has converted to RFA. The completion of the conversion process will be December 31, 2018.

In Stanislaus County as of January 1, 2018 there are approximately 800 youth in foster care. Community Services Agency has approved 239 Resource Families who are playing a vital role in serving the children in this community. These Resource Families are committed to providing quality care to over 250 children who, for a variety of reasons, cannot be with their parents or relatives.

In addition to Community Services Agency Resource Parents, several Foster Family Agencies that are licensed by the State certify Resource Families to provide care for approximately 300 Stanislaus County dependent children.

This network of care providers has 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 2017-2018 operating budget for the Community Services Agency includes \$22.6 million for the administration of and services connected to foster care. Federal and State revenue of \$7.3 million and 2011 Realignment revenue of \$5.4 will offset the planned program expenditures. The County Match requirement of \$9.9 million will be funded with \$7.6 of 1991 Realignment and \$2.3 million of General Fund. The Community Services Agency 2017-2018 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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Boards' priority of *Supporting Community Health* by proclaiming May as Foster Care Awareness Month which highlights the special role that foster parents and relative/non-related extended care providers play in providing nurturing care to children.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

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

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proclaiming May 2018 as Foster Care Awareness Month

Proclaiming May 2018 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 2018 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.