

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Dave Cortese



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DATE: April 21, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 

Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District 3

SUBJECT: Children, Seniors & Families Committee - March 26, 2009

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept report from Children, Seniors, and Families Committee on meeting of March 26, 2009. (Cortese)

Possible action:

A. Accept annual status report from the Department of Aging and Adult Services on the In-Home Supportive Services Program.

B. Accept committee agenda items 5,6, and 8 as Board Information.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Children, Seniors and Families Committee met on March 26, 2009.

BACKGROUND

The Committee deferred approving the February meeting minutes until the April 2009 CSFC meeting.

The Committee took the agenda out of order and heard item # 8 first given the large number of public speakers present for this item and in order to accommodate Vice Chair Shirakawa's early departure.

Item 8

The committee unanimously approved the report from Director Lightbourne on the proposed FY 2010 budget reductions for the Social Services Agency. Director Lightbourne prefaced by explaining that despite the economic downturn, resulting in mass job loss and financial instability, SSA must maintain itself as the County's gateway for public assistance. While a measure of relief is on its way via the federal economic stimulus plan, it will not be enough to offset the budget devastation the county is currently facing. Lightbourne reviewed the historic reductions SSA has undergone since FY 2004. This fiscal year, SSA had to undergo an additional \$18 million in further reductions. Two of the departments within SSA that will take major cuts are the Department of Aging and Adults Services (DAAS) - elimination of 5 positions and the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) - elimination of 7 positions. Lightbourne went on to explain other changes contained in the SSA reduction plan. He noted that that the proposed FY 10 budget does not include "one time" funding from the General Fund which, despite its name, has been approved by the Board of Supervisors annually for several years, in the amount of \$1,353,784.00.

Chair Cortese opened the floor to public comment. There was a total of 19 public speakers, 13 of which were from SEIU Local 521. This group conveyed to the committee the critical role they play as social workers working with families in distress and the importance of the services they provide to such families. Other speakers representing organizations included Sparky Harlan, CEO of the Bill Wilson Center (BWC), who commented on how the budget cuts will affect the BWC directly and how the children that use their services will be affected, Tom Kinoshita (Silicon Valley Council of Non-Profits), who expressed support for the one-time funds from the General Fund and Colleen Hudgen, Executive Director of Live Oak Adult Day Services and a member of the City of Santa Clara's Senior Care Commission, who spoke in favor of maintaining services to the senior community. The final public speakers were consumers of the senior services offered by the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, who spoke in favor of maintaining such services.

The Committee asked Director Lightbourne to work with the interests represented by the public speakers in developing strategies for budget reduction. Chair Cortese expressed his understanding of the impacts that these proposed cuts would have and pledged to try to implement the speakers' ideas during the budget during the workshops in May 2009.

Vice Chair Shirakawa excused himself from the proceedings and the meeting continued as a Committee of the Whole.

Item 6

Director Ralph Miller reported that DCSS essentially has the same annual allocation as the previous six years. At this time no layoffs are planned and there maybe additional state funds as suggested in the Governor's proposals. We will not be able to determine the amount until the Governor takes action in June. If additional funds are allocated the DCSS, Miller will return to the Board with a proposal to amend the department's budget to include these funds, but they are not depending on these additional funds to balance the budget.

Item 7

Lightbourne gave a brief introduction to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. He shared that this program continues to grow and that the needs of our aging population have this department working productively to make sure they serve the residents in a satisfactory way. SSA staff person James Ramon added that the complaints they had received last year (about the timely processing of payroll for IHSS workers) have been corrected and that staff is up to date with the payroll processing and intake. Chair Cortese asked for an off agenda report that can show the projected capacity of the program and plans for how to manage the growth.

Item 9

Nothing further to add as this was discussed as part of item #8.

Item 10

Nothing further to add as this was discussed as part of item #6.

ATTACHMENTS

- CSFC Agenda March 26, 2009
- IHSS Transmittal
- IHSS Annual Report