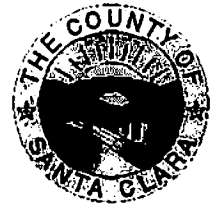


County of Santa Clara Children, Seniors & Families Committee



BOS4-011309-04

Prepared by: John Mills
Chief of Staff

DATE: January 13, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: *Ken Yeager*
Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District 4

SUBJECT: Children, Seniors and Families Committee -- December 18, 2008

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept report from the Children, Seniors and Families Committee relating to meeting of December 18, 2008. (Yeager)

Possible action:

- a. Accept report on Programs for Immigrant Integration (PII) funding and program service areas, delay the release of the PII RFP for FY 2009 -2010, and direct the Administration to extend existing agreements through FY 2009 -2010 at budgeted levels, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY 2009 -2010 budget process;
- b. Accept items 4 -6 and 8 -14 as Board information only.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Children, Seniors and Families Committee met on December 18, 2008.

The Committee accepted the report on the Programs for Immigrant Integration (PII) funding and program service areas, recommended that the release of the PII RFP for FY 2009 -2010 be delayed, and directed the Administration to extend existing agreements through FY 2009 -2010 at budgeted levels, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors during the FY 2009 -2010 budget process. Representatives from the Center for Employment Training (CET) and Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN) spoke to the impacts of reducing funding to contracted services and programs.

The Committee received an update on the fiscal sustainability planning process for the Family Wellness Court. The Court is funded by a five-year grant, which diminishes over time, with significant funding reductions in years four and five.

The program is engaging fathers in the dependency process. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding is supporting a "mentor dads" program, as well as a part-time therapist and psychiatrist for fathers, whereas the original grant application had only envisioned mental health services for children. The Department of Alcohol and Drug Services has provided male drug counselors. The Department of Family and Children's Services has provided an eligibility worker and a court liaison worker, and the program has offered enhanced health supports to families, such as dental care.

Current financial sustainability strategies include maximizing eligibility for benefits to provide payment for services, including Medi-Cal maximization through various billing strategies and partnering with the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) to bill at the enhanced rate provided by the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) program. Future plans include the continued quest for other outside funding sources, such as for housing assistance.

The Director of the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) reported that the former Director of the California Department of Child Support Services has been appointed Director of the Department of Health Care Services. The Orange County DCSS Director has been appointed to direct the state DCSS. This will be the fourth new state director in the past five years, which presents continued challenges to the continuity of policies at the state level. So far, local child support services agencies have avoided scrutiny for additional budget cuts in the latest rounds of proposed budget reductions at the state level. California is now fully certified in its use of the Child Support Automation System, which removes the threat of additional federal penalties and makes further federal funds available to the State.

The Director of the Social Services Agency reported that there continues to be a stark increase in the number of people seeking public assistance. He cautioned that, although discussions of a federal economic stimulus package include an increase in the levels of public assistance benefits, California may not be able to efficiently access these increased funds if the State continues to cut social services administrative capacity.

The Social Services Agency is seeking ways to streamline eligibility and redeterminations because existing models cannot continue to service the continued growth in caseloads. The Agency is looking at process changes that don't restrict access to public assistance services. Redesign concepts are tentatively slated to be presented to the Children, Seniors and Families Committee in Spring 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

- CSFC 121808 Agenda
- Programs for Immigrant Integration (PII) Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY 2009-10 Report Back