



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

DEPT: Community Svcs Agency/District Attorney Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-9

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE October 30, 2007

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of Update on the Stanislaus Family Justice Center Collaborative

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Accept update regarding the concept of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center (FJC), the progress of Stanislaus FJC Steering Committee, and relationship of FJC to the Board of Supervisor Priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the agenda item. The Stanislaus Family Justice Center Steering Committee is currently identifying resources for the funding of the center.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2007-857

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

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman O'Brien

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: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus Family Justice Center is a collaborative body formed in the fall of 2006 to create a single point of contact and service for victims of family violence (domestic abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse and child abuse). It seeks to build on the community's successful creation of the C.A.I.R.E. (*Child Abuse Interviews, Referrals and Exams*) Center that opened in 2001. The C.A.I.R.E. Center has successfully demonstrated how collaborating agencies with diverse roles can improve prosecution, victim support, and victim recovery.

The Stanislaus Family Justice Center Steering Committee is comprised of over 25 agencies representing, law enforcement, social services, mental health, community based non-profit organizations, City and County governments and faith based organizations. The concept of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center is modeled on the President's Family Justice Center Initiative and the successful implementation of "one-stop" victim support centers in San Diego, Anaheim and Oakland, California, as well as other urban/suburban locations throughout the United States.

The development project is led by the District Attorney for Stanislaus County, Birgit Fladager. D.A. Fladager, has allocated leadership time and contract resources to provide structure and a point of organization for the Steering Committee efforts.

Since November of 2006 the FJC Steering Committee has:

- Conducted a needs assessment
- Established a strategic plan
- Developed a committee structure
- Developed initial start-up and operating budgets
- Proposed a governance structure
- Reviewed facility needs

The benefits to the Community should the Stanislaus Family Justice Center become operational are the following:

1. Improved victim participation and cooperation with criminal investigations and prosecutions leading to a measurable increase in plea and conviction rates. This will lead to greater public accountability for perpetrators.
2. Improved victim access to services that will assist their recovery. The improved services participation will: a.) create opportunities for safer living environments for women, children and vulnerable elders, b.) promote emotional and economic self-sufficiency of victims, c.) promote rearing of children in violence free environments.

3. Create more efficient use of law enforcement resources.
4. Reduce and/or avoid the costly prosecution of family violence related homicide and serious assault.
5. Improve community awareness of the problems associated with family violence and provide opportunities to educate parents and domestic partners to their responsibilities to create healthy violence free environments.

The PowerPoint is intended to update members of the Board on the progress made to date. The Committee of the Board working with the Departments in the Boards priority of A safe community were briefed on October 2, 2007.

POLICY ISSUES:

Board of Supervisor approval of the item, will continue work by the Steering Committee which will potentially lead to the Board of Supervisors consideration of an ordinance creating a Stanislaus Family Justice Center Commission and appointing members to the Commission.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

Existing staff from the District Attorney, Community Services Agency and other agencies are participating in the development of the Center.