

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

Public List

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-4a

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE April 1, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclamation of the Month of April 2008 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 25, 2008 As Children's Memorial Day

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the Month of April 2008 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
2. Proclaim April 25, 2008 as Children's Memorial Day.
3. Authorize County Departments to fly the Children's Memorial Flag On April 21-25, 2008.
4. Recognize the Child Abuse Prevention Council Art Contest Winners at the April 15, 2008 Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-231

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

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

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, calling attention to the special role that the Community Services Agency and its community partners play in child abuse prevention.

Nationwide, more children age four and younger die from child abuse and neglect than from any other single, leading cause of death. (This includes falls, choking on food, suffocation, drowning, residential fires, and motor vehicle accidents.) The number of abused and neglected children continues to rise each year. More than three million children are reported to child protective agencies in the United States as having suffered abuse and neglect each year. During Fiscal Year 2006-2007 in Stanislaus County, child abuse investigations involved 10,719 children.

Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, community agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community. Prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage youth to develop strong ties to their communities. All residents of Stanislaus County should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment. The Agency desires to bring to the attention of all citizens the importance of child abuse prevention, including services provided in collaboration with the Departments of Probation, Health Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, District Attorney's Office and our many community partners.

The blue ribbon is the national symbol of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. We encourage all citizens to wear or display blue ribbons during the month of April to promote awareness of child abuse and neglect throughout the community.

In 1998, the Child Welfare League of America launched a public awareness campaign to direct attention to the tragedy of violent child deaths as part of a national initiative to reduce child mortality. They designed a Children's Memorial Flag that included blue, paper-doll-like figures of children holding hands. In the center, the white chalk outline of a missing child symbolizes the thousands of children lost to violence. Created by a 16-year-old student in Alameda County, California, and flown on the fourth Friday in April, the Children's Memorial Flag honors each lost child and raises public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children. For the past five years our county has joined in this national Children's Memorial Flag Initiative by having the flag flown throughout the county. In April 2007, as a way of acknowledging needless child deaths and committing to do more to protect children, the flag was flown by the following agencies/departments: Community Services Agency, County CEO's office, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff Department, Probation Department, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Haven Women's Center and other community partners.

The Community Services Agency is recommending that April 25, 2008 be proclaimed Children's Memorial Day and that the Community Services Agency and other interested departments be authorized to fly the commemorative flag from April 21, 2008 through April 25, 2008.

In addition to displaying the memorial flag, the Child Abuse Prevention Council is sponsoring its fifth annual art contest. This is an effort to heighten awareness of the problem of abuse and to educate children and families about child abuse detection and prevention. This year, over one hundred and fifty (150) Kindergarten-12th grade students throughout the County participated in this contest.

POLICY ISSUE:

Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 25, 2008 as Children's Memorial Day promotes community awareness of child abuse and neglect and confirms the Agency's effort to meet the Board's priority of ensuring a safe community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: April 1, 2008

No. 2008-231

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

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

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # *A-4a

WHEREAS, statistics of children who are abused and neglected escalate each year;

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among the Community Services Agency, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community;

WHEREAS, youth-oriented prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage youth to develop strong ties to their communities;

WHEREAS, all residents of Stanislaus County should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, the Children's Memorial Day Flag honors the memory of children who have been victimized by violence and raises public awareness of this tragedy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim April 2008 as Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 25, 2008 as Children's Memorial Day. BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Community Services Agency and other interested County Departments are hereby authorized to fly the Children's Memorial Flag from April 21, 2008 through April 25, 2008.

ATTEST: **CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN**, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

