

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

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-4

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE October 20, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Dissolve the Stanislaus County Children's Council as Recommended by a Unanimous Vote of the Council Members

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the dissolution of the Stanislaus County Children's Council based on unanimous vote of the Council members.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Since its inception in 1992, funding to support the Stanislaus County Children's Council has come from a variety of resources including contributions from the Community Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Board of Supervisors - Community Support, Children and Families Commission, Modesto City Schools and Stanislaus County Office of Education. Funding to support staffing and services and support related to the Stanislaus County Children's Council coordinating activities began to significantly decrease beginning in Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as detailed below:

(Continued on Page 2)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-694

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

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

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No. BD-65-28

**FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Budget</b>
98/99	\$111,000
99/00	\$115,583
00/01	\$135,000
01/02	\$161,000
02/03	\$157,564
03/04	\$202,830
04/05	\$106,627
05/06	\$74,227
06/07	\$33,656
07/08	\$34,613
08/09	\$9,992

Due to economic and fiscal constraints, funding is no longer available, requiring the Children's Council to eliminate the remaining administrative support function that was previously filled through a personal services contract, now vacant.

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors – Community Support budget allocated \$3,700 to the Children's Council as part of the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget. Due to the lack of staffing resources and the uncertainty of the future of the Children's Council, these funds have not been disbursed to the Children's Council.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Board of Supervisors established the Stanislaus County Children's Council on February 4, 1992, in accordance with California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18986, which provides that the Board of Supervisors of any County may establish an interagency children's services coordination council. The primary duties required of the council include the following:

- (a) Ensuring collaboration and county-wide planning for the provision of children's services;
- (b) Identifying those agencies that have a significant joint responsibility in providing services to children and families;
- (c) Identifying gaps in services to specific populations;
- (d) Developing policies and setting priorities to ensure service effectiveness;
- (e) Implementing public and private collaborative programs whenever possible;

Approval to Dissolve the Stanislaus County Children's Council based on a Unanimous  
Vote of the Council Members

Page 3

- (f) Providing for county-wide interagency case management to coordinate resources, especially for those children and their families who are using the services of more than one agency concurrently; and
- (g) Identify, coordinate with, and, where feasible, integrate with existing children's services groups and other coordinating bodies.

Additionally, each County participating in a Children's Council was required to develop a three-year program for phasing in a coordinated children's services system and no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year must submit to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors a program proposal for the development of a coordinated system of care.

From 1992 to 2002, the Children's Council was supported by the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) through the assignment and funding of two positions: a full-time manager to act as Executive Director for the Council and one part-time clerk to provide administrative support. From 2002 to 2006, the Community Services Agency (CSA) and the Children and Families Commission contributed funding to BHRS in order to maintain the staffing for the Council. In 2006, due to reductions in departmental revenue, BHRS was no longer able to sustain the positions on behalf of the Children's Council. At that time, CSA began funding the administrative support through a personal services contract for a Children's Council Coordinator. In April 2009 the contract was terminated through the resignation of the incumbent.

Additionally, due to economic and fiscal constraints, CSA is no longer able to fund the administrative support function. The remaining available allocated funding is from the Board of Supervisor's – Community Support of \$3,700, which is insufficient to cover the costs of the position in the current fiscal year. As a result of the lack of administrative support, the Children's Council is challenged to meet the requirements set forth by the Welfare and Institutions Code, as well as the Brown Act reporting requirements.

For many years, the Council had a variety of sub-committees that helped it meet its prescribed mandates. One of the subcommittees was the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) which was established by the Board of Supervisors on February 19, 2002. The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Stanislaus County is a local forum for interagency cooperation and coordination of services in the prevention, intervention, and treatment, as it relates to child abuse and neglect.

In August 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved the restructuring of the CAPC under Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I) 18980 making the CAPC an independent body. This was a requirement of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention to sustain federal and state funding for Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Child Abuse Prevention Intervention, and Treatment. In February of 2006, The Board of Supervisors approved the amended by-laws and appointed members to this Council. As a result, the coordination of services and the planning of resources as it pertains to the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect moved from the Children's Council to the Child Abuse Prevention Council. The Child Abuse Prevention Council

Approval to Dissolve the Stanislaus County Children's Council based on a Unanimous  
Vote of the Council Members

Page 4

structure is similar to the Children's Council in that Welfare and Institutions Code prescribes representatives from many of the same organizations for both councils.

On June 17, 2009, a subcommittee was formed to identify options for the future of the Stanislaus County Children's Council. The sub-committee focused its discussion on two options: 1) Identify an agency to assume the coordination of the Stanislaus County Children's Council and maintain the current formal structure, and 2) Develop a new informal structure that would not require the mandates of the Welfare and Institutions Code or the formal reporting requirements of the Brown Act. On September 16, 2009, the sub-committee reported their findings and recommendations to the Children's Council. After further discussion by the Children's Council, members voted unanimously to recommend the dissolution of the Stanislaus County Children's Council to the Board of Supervisors. Without adequate administrative support, the mandates of the Welfare and Institutions Code cannot be achieved.

Stanislaus County Children's Council members' universally agree that there is value in continuing to meet and network, especially in a time of reduced funding for coordinating children's services in Stanislaus County. With the Board's approval to dissolve the Council, Council members will continue to meet as an informal committee and will develop the specifics of the new informal structure in the upcoming months.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The Board of Supervisors has the authority under the California Welfare and Institutions Code to establish an interagency children's services coordination council. Approval of this request to dissolve the Stanislaus County Children's Council will allow for an informal networking group to continue to meet and share information about children's services without the stringent requirements of the Welfare and Institutions Code and supports the Board's priority of *Effective partnerships*.

**STAFFING IMPACTS:**

The Coordinator position provided through a Personal Services Contract terminated June 30, 2009. There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.