

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

PO

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *B-2

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE August 13, 2013

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Community Services Agency to Open to the Public on Saturdays for Scheduled Welfare to Work Appointments at the Community Services Facility September 2013 through December 2014

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Community Services Agency to be open to the public on Saturdays for scheduled Welfare to Work appointments at the Community Services Facility beginning September 2013 through December 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Appropriations and estimated revenues in the amount of \$17.8 million are included in the Community Services Agency Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Adopted Proposed Budget for Welfare to Work, a component of the CalWORKs Program, supported with a required maintenance of effort of \$2.2 million budgeted annually. There is no additional General Fund requirement beyond the maintenance of effort already provided through the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Adopted Proposed Budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-406

On motion of Supervisor Withdraw, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withdraw, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman Chiesa
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:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1041 on June 27, 2012 created significant changes to the Welfare to Work (WtW) program. The changes to the program impact approximately 8,000 customers and include:

- Implementation of a WtW 24 month time clock;
- Change in participation requirements;
- Revision of WtW contracts;
- Addition of a new child exemption for care of a child from 0 – 23 months of age; and
- Instructions to counties to offer and grant short term exemptions to individuals receiving CalWORKs (cash aid) with one child 12-23 months of age or two or more children under the age of 6 years old.

Individuals who were considered exempt as of December 31, 2012 are not required to participate in WtW activities and will not have months count against their time on aid, until the County re-engages them. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued instructions requiring counties to conduct evaluations for all individuals being re-engaged in WtW activities. There are approximately 1,800 customers in Stanislaus County identified as qualifying for a temporary exemption for either one child 12-23 months old or two or more children under the age of 6 years old. Each customer will need to have re-engagement evaluations completed before December 31, 2014. The re-engagement evaluations must include the following:

- Completion of a case by case determination of an individual's status and needs and finalization of the individual's WtW plan;
- Determination of whether the individual qualifies for another exemption or has good cause for not participating in WtW activities;
- Information provided to the individual regarding the number of months left on his or her CalWORKs 48 month time limit (number of months they will receive a benefit);
- Determination of which stage in the WtW flow is appropriate to begin re-engaging the individual;
- Identification of possible barriers to participation and resolution of those barriers;
- Evaluation of Self-Initiated Program eligibility (if applicable);
- General description of program requirements; and
- Supportive services available to participants and payment options, such as bus tickets, vouchers, etc.; and

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- Information regarding program changes that have occurred since that individual became exempt including, but not limited to, the new WtW 24-Month Time Clock and the individuals participation requirements after the 24 months.

Proposed Re-engagement Plan

The Community Services Agency WtW program is recommending establishing Saturday appointments between September 2013 and December 2014 to meet with customers affected by the WtW program changes. Beginning in September 2013, CSA will hold group re-engagement evaluation sessions in the CSA main lobby and use existing facilities for the one-on-one evaluations in an effort to ensure all temporary exempt customers will receive the same information and services. Customers will receive 30 day advance notice of scheduled appointments. Only customers with appointments will be seen on Saturdays. The goal is to complete the evaluations within 6 months of the State mandated deadline of December 31, 2014 to ensure all customers in the re-engagement population have been served. Conducting the re-engagement plan after regular business hours will allow for a more focused approach to tracking and re-engaging all WtW customers with a temporary exemption. These appointments will also ensure that CSA meets the State mandated deadline of December 31, 2014. Additionally, it will eliminate potential impacts on parking, lobby, reception, and interview room space during regular business hours.

POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of WtW appointments at the Community Services Facility on Saturdays supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community, A Strong Local Economy and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by assisting families towards independence and self-sufficiency.

STAFFING ISSUES:

Existing Community Services Agency Welfare to Work staff will have the option to volunteer for an alternative work schedule that includes Saturday.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director 209-558-2500