

*Kathryn Conway*

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # \*A-5

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE October 15, 2013

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES  NO

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Proclaim the Month of November 2013 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Proclaim the month of November 2013 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-496

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, 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:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Each year, the month of November is celebrated as National Adoption Awareness Month. During this time, the State and its counties engage in activities to promote awareness of the need for adoptive and permanent homes for the youth in temporary living situations such as foster care. There are seven adoption agencies in Stanislaus County that place children in permanent homes, Aspiranet Foster & Adoption Services, Bethany Christian Services, Family Connections Christian Adoptions, Families First, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Koinonia Family Services and the Community Services Agency, Child and Family Services Division.

During Fiscal Year 2012-2013, eighty-four (84) adoptions were finalized in our agency. This means that eighty-four (84) children who were unable to reunify with their biological parents have found "forever families" through adoption. The number of children formerly supervised by the agency and now being raised in adoptive homes continues to exceed the number of children currently residing in foster care.

CSA's vision is to continue to develop and provide the most comprehensive adoption program, which facilitates the utilization of supportive services during every aspect of the adoption process. Post Adoption Services are an important source of support to families once the adoption has been finalized. This past year's post adoption services have included:

### **Adoption Assistance Program**

This program continually assesses families and implements federal grant funding that can provide financial assistance to adoptive families to meet the basic needs of the child, special needs assistance and medical.

### **Wraparound Services**

Through a private contract with AspriaNet, adoptive families are provided with intensive wraparound services to help maintain children in their home, whom otherwise would be placed in group home care.

### **Support Group**

This group meets once a month and provides a forum for families to discuss issues that impact families touched by adoption and to build upon the adoption community.

### **Learning Library**

The learning library maintained by Family Connections Christian Adoptions is a resource, which enables anyone in Stanislaus County an avenue to gain knowledge regarding adoption issues that impact individuals touched by adoption.

### **Web Page**

The Stanislaus County adoption page is accessed through the Stanislaus County webpage. This evolving resource gives the viewer an overview of what adoption services our agency provides.

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The agency is requesting that the Board of Supervisors proclaim November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County. The resolution will be presented to various adoptive agencies that are headquartered in Stanislaus County.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

Proclaiming November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month honors the Adoptive families, staff, and agencies' contributions to the Board's priority of a healthy community.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Janice Viss, Assistant Director 558-2500

**Proclaim the Month of November 2013 as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month in Stanislaus County**

**WHEREAS**, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes the essential value of belonging to a secure, loving, permanent family as every child's basic right; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors recognizes the outstanding work of Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Social Service Staff who placed eighty-four (84) children in adoptive homes during the last fiscal year.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize all private adoption agencies within Stanislaus County committed to finding permanent homes for children in need of safe, loving homes.

**WHEREAS**, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor the dedicated families who have opened their hearts and their homes to provide love and support for many of our communities' children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to commend the network of committed social workers, community service providers and county agencies for their dedication and support of the families and the adopted children in their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month gives this community a chance to honor the dedicated relatives, foster families, other adoptive families, social workers, public and private adoption services and community partners who have worked together to ensure a better life for many of our county's children.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim November 2013 as **Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month**.