

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-4

AGENDA DATE: April 5, 2016

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stanislaus County

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2016-157

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien
and approved by the following vote.

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

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: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency
Urgent Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-4

AGENDA DATE: April 5, 2016

CEO CONCURRENCE: *pkx*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stanislaus County.

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.

An estimated 702,000 United States children were documented victims of maltreatment in 2014, and approximately 1,580 of these children died from abuse or neglect. However, these figures are considered underestimated due to child maltreatment being under reported.

Beyond the impact on individuals, child abuse has a significant impact on society, the total lifetime economic cost due to new child maltreatment cases in a single year is estimated at \$124 billion in the United States.

In 2014, there were 496,972 reports (allegations) of child abuse and neglect in California. Of those, 79,179 or 16% were substantiated (verified) by the state child welfare system. About two-thirds (66%) of verified cases were due to general neglect, which includes cases where the parent, guardian, or caregiver failed to provide adequate food, shelter, medical care or supervision for the child, but no physical injury occurred. Children ages 0-5 make up nearly half of all substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect in California. This age group comprised of 47% of all cases in 2014, which is an increase from 40% in 1998. During Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in Stanislaus County, child abuse investigations involved 6,311 children.

Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, community based organizations, County departments, schools, faith-based 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 and 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

Approval to Proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stanislaus County

Probation, Health Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, District Attorney's Office and our many community partners.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) has financially supported child abuse prevention services for families. Currently, CAPC is providing funding to Hutton House, a local teen shelter that provides invaluable services to runaways and teens in crisis at home.

For the past two years, CAPC has focused efforts on working with community members to develop a shared vision of strong families living in supportive communities. The five protective factors at the foundation of Strengthening Families are characteristics that have been shown to make positive outcomes more likely for young children and their families, and to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The five protective factors are:

- 1) Parental Resilience;
- 2) Social Connections;
- 3) Concrete Supports;
- 4) Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development; and
- 5) Social and Emotional Competence of Children.

There are three current CAPC workgroups focused on the following topics:

- Professional Development – provide county wide orientation and training
- Parent Engagement – engage parents in the community as leaders through parent cafes
- Systems/Policy – explore community systems and map areas of strengths as well as areas of needs in the community with partner agencies

CAPC will continue to focus on Strengthening Family activities in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, expanding the work throughout Stanislaus County.

Another activity of the CAPC is the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program. This prevention program uses a Shaken Baby Syndrome Curriculum to educate parents about the dangers and consequences of shaking a young child. Education occurs in local hospitals for new parents, in the Healthy Birth Outcomes program, at foster parent training, and at Sierra Vista First Step parenting program. In 2015, 8,552 parents were educated in the curriculum. This prevention program was initiated by the CAPC in 2007 after a high number of documented Shaken Baby injuries and deaths. In Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015, there was no documented Shaken Baby Syndrome injuries or deaths documented in Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 operating budget for the Community Services Agency includes \$1.5 million for services connected with child abuse prevention.

There is no additional cost to the General Fund associated with this agenda item.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action supports the Boards' priority of A Safe Community by promoting community awareness of child abuse and neglect.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director (209) 558-2500

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1) Proclamation

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 2016 AS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN STANISLAUS COUNTY**

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

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources and support, and don't know how to cope; and,

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

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

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

WHEREAS, by ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children's physical, social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities; and,

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

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 and nurturing environment.

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition that the Community Services Agency and all the community partners' effective child abuse prevention programs help make the County of Stanislaus a better place for children and families, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby declare the month of April 2016 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Stanislaus County.