

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

334A



FROM: Department of Public Social Services

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 23, 2004

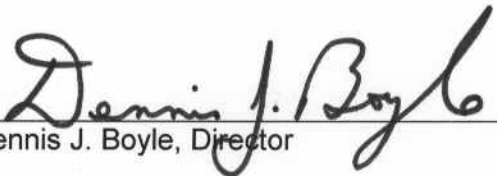
SUBJECT: FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors declare May 2004 Foster Parent Recognition Month in the County of Riverside and approve the attached proclamation.

BACKGROUND: Currently, in Riverside County there are approximately 4,500 children in out-of-home care. The priority for placement is always with relatives, resulting in 2200 (49%) of children placed in kinship or legal guardianship care. Unfortunately, all relatives cannot care for family members; thus, 1800 (40%) are placed in State licensed foster homes. As the number of children requiring foster family homes has doubled, there are fewer licensed foster homes now than there were more than two decades ago, resulting in a greater need for more foster families. Today, Riverside County has only 690 licensed foster family homes to help care for these children when their parents are unable to care for them. These resource families, as well as the social workers, volunteers, educators, and other professionals who support them, quietly take on one of the greatest challenges our society faces today. Few people know how much commitment, love, strenuous work, and sympathetic perseverance lie at the heart of the foster care system. A group more deserving of appreciation and recognition is hard to imagine.

Departmental Concurrence

(Continued- 2 Pages in Total)


 Dennis J. Boyle, Director

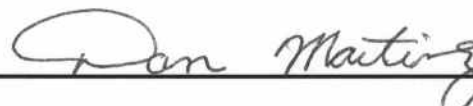
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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ N/A | In Current Year Budget: | N/A |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ N/A | Budget Adjustment: | N/A |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ N/A | For Fiscal Year: | N/A |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A | Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Requires 4/5 Vote | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature



- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 5-15-2001 (2.19)

District: All

Agenda Number:

2.12

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: 4-23-04
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SUBJECT: Foster Parent Recognition Month

BACKGROUND (CONT): The numbers of children in foster care placement tell only a small part of the story. The types of challenges facing foster children (and potential foster families) are changing, as well. Among the emerging trends are:

- An increasing need for foster care homes for pregnant teens and teenage parents with children;
- The need for foster parents to care for the children in their home while working with the child's birth family and then adopting the child if the child is unable to be safely reunited with his/her parent;
- The need to help youth nearing the age of 18 to transition successfully to independence;
- The need to provide homes for sibling groups of three, four, five, or even more siblings;
- The need for specialized homes to care for children with severe medical conditions;
- The need to help children who are so traumatized by the events leading to their need for foster care that they require not just a warm, loving home, but medical and mental health intervention.

The Foster Parents of Riverside County provide a tremendous service to the community by opening their homes to shelter abused and neglected children. Foster Parents are dedicated professional care providers who deserve to be recognized for their willingness to accept other people's children into their homes; to provide these children with care, nurturing, and a safe environment. Foster Parents open their hearts and homes to children, some of whom are emotionally and physically scarred as a result of the abuse or neglect they have suffered. The commitment Foster Parents make to serve these children is selfless. They perform a job for which there is little recognition, yet Foster Parents are truly "every-day heroes" who provide the greatest of community service.

By proclaiming May 2004 Foster Parent Recognition Month in Riverside County, we emphasize the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to support the extraordinary efforts of Foster Parents in their performance of service to communities in our county. This recognition is to take place during the same month that the State of California and the Federal Government also recognize Foster Parents.

ATTACHMENTS: Proclamation

CONCUR/EXECUTE: