

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

617A



FROM:
Department of Public Social Services
SUBJECT: May 2007 Foster Care Month

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 5, 2007

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors declare May 2007 as Foster Care month in the County of Riverside and approve the attached proclamation.

BACKGROUND:

In Riverside County there are over 5,600 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family. These families offer their homes and love to help children whose families are in crisis and they help to heal and reconnect these children into adulthood.

Cynthia Hinckley, Director
Department of Public Social Services

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
Debra Cournoyer

Policy

Consent

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:** 2.13

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: April 5, 2007

PAGE 2

SUBJECT: May 2007 Foster Care Month

BACKGROUND (Cont'd):

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association advocated for an annual proclamation which was issued by President George W. Bush. The main focus was to provide appreciation and recognition for the tremendous efforts and contributions of foster parents across the nation.

In Riverside County there are currently 593 licensed foster family homes and 3,810 foster families serving over 5,600 children. These families provide safe, stable and nurturing environments to children and youth until children are reunited with their biological parents or established in lifelong family relationships. Like all young people, children in foster care deserve and benefit from enduring positive relationships with caring adults. Without these permanent connections, former foster children are far more likely than their peers in the general population to endure homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment, incarceration and other adversities after they leave the foster care system.

Foster care is a tremendous benefit; with guidance from supportive adults, children and youth are capable of overcoming the repercussions of previous abuse and neglect. Foster care families are helping to build a brighter future for the children and youth they serve.

By proclaiming May 2007 to be Foster Care Month in the County of Riverside, the Board of Supervisors continues a tradition and commitment to support the extraordinary efforts of foster care families serving the 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 the foster care community.

FOSTER CARE MONTH

MAY 2007

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State, and

WHEREAS, in Riverside County there are approximately 5,600 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family, and

WHEREAS, foster families, who open their homes and hearts and offer help to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and families heal and reconnect and launching children into successful adulthood, and

WHEREAS, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents, and the foster care "system" is only as good as those who choose to be a part of it, and

WHEREAS, across the country, and particularly in Riverside County; people just like you are needed to help these children build brighter futures by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers. No matter how much time you have to give, there is something you can do to make a difference in the lives of our foster children. .

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, in recognition of foster care families and their commitment and dedication to children and youth, does hereby proclaim the month of May 2007 as FOSTER CARE MONTH and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help change a lifetime for children and youth in foster care.

BOB BUSTER
First District

JOHN F. TAVAGLIONE
Second District, Chairman

JEFF STONE
Third District

ROY WILSON
Fourth District, Vice Chairman

MARION ASHLEY
Fifth District