

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

267A



**FROM:** Department of Public Social Services

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
April 14, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Child Abuse Prevention Month

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors declare April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the County of Riverside and approve the attached proclamation.

**BACKGROUND:**

Child abuse remains a serious problem in our communities. Successful prevention and intervention requires the commitment of the entire community to nurture the growth of safe and stable families and ensure the welfare of future generations.

In Calendar Year 2008, DPSS received 57,599 calls to the Child Abuse Hotline. Of those calls, 25,525 were referred for investigation, which is an average of 2,127 referrals for child abuse and neglect per month.

Departmental Concurrence

*Susan Loew*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Loew, Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	08/09

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

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *Debra Cournoyer*  
Debra Cournoyer

**County Executive Office Signature**

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

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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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**BACKGROUND (CONT.):**

Currently, there are 4,032 children in out of home care. 46% of the children are placed with Relatives and Legal Guardians, and 54% are in Non-Relative placements. There are 5,826 children receiving Family Maintenance, Family Reunification and Permanent Placement Services.

DPSS, in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County, currently contracts with community-based, non-profit organizations. These contractors provide services to reduce the incidence of child abuse by helping parents resolve their issues with substance abuse, domestic violence, parenting skills, education, homemaking, and basic living skills. Contractors also provide prevention and early intervention services to prevent problems from intensifying, thereby reducing the need to remove children from their homes in order to ensure their safety.

DPSS has made a point of developing strong collaborative relationships with county and city law enforcement personnel, the District Attorney's Office, the school system and the Riverside County Regional Medical Center, to promote the prevention of child abuse as well as respond to incidents of child abuse.

It truly takes an entire community to raise and ensure the well being of a child. The Department of Public Social Services is proud to work with its community partners, and the many private citizens, whose efforts help to make Riverside County a safer place for our children.

PROCLAMATION  
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH  
APRIL 2009

WHEREAS, children deserve a safe, stable and permanent home in order to become productive members of or society; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is found in families of all social and economic classes and every racial and ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, child abuse impacts the entire community and finding solutions depends on community involvement to nurture family growth and inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, through the continued work of volunteers, parents, community partners, policy makers and professionals, child abuse may be eradicated, giving our children a bright, successful future; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County works in collaboration with the Department of Public Social Services to educate the public to reduce the incidence of child abuse and provide other services to help alleviate its effects; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention within the community, and become more involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County joins in partnership with the County of Riverside to devote resources and efforts throughout the year that focus on positive parenting and the promotion of healthy and safe families in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, does hereby proclaim the month of April 2009 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH and urges all its residents to become more aware of this National, State and Countywide issue, and do what they can to prevent child abuse in their communities.