

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



FROM: Supervisor John Benoit

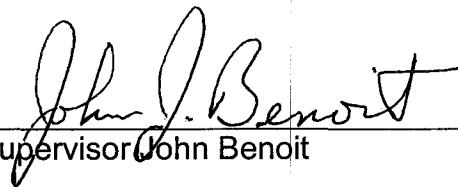
SUBMITTAL DATE: May 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Restoration of Child Welfare Services Funding

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2010-156 in support of the restoration of State Child Welfare Services funding and direct the Executive Office and the County's advocates in Sacramento to further the Board's action.

BACKGROUND:

Last year, with the adoption of the State's budget, Governor Schwarznegger took unilateral action to line-item veto a total of \$133 million in funding in support of Child Welfare Services. The Governor's proposed budget for FY 10/11 includes a continuation of this funding cut. The local impact of these cuts is the loss of social workers and direct services to respond and protect children from abuse and neglect. In addition, there are fewer resources available to support foster children as they transition to adulthood. The safety, permanency and well-being of children are directly linked to timely intervention and the availability of critical prevention and intervention services. These children have already been traumatized and should be spared further harm that will be caused by the continuation of these funding cuts. I encourage the Board to join me in adopting the attached resolution in support of restoring the Child Welfare Services funding.


Supervisor John Benoit

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Department Recommendation:

Per Executive Office:

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.81

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-156
RESTORATION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FUNDING
MAY 4, 2010

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

WHEREAS, Riverside County is highly committed to protecting the safety and well being of all children, especially those who are abused and neglected; and

WHEREAS, last year, unilateral budget cuts resulted in a \$133 million dollar loss of funding for California Child Welfare Service programs; and

WHEREAS, the current proposed California State budget sustains the \$133 million dollar cut to California Child Welfare Service Programs; and

WHEREAS, these cuts significantly impact funding for crucial child welfare programs and services that serve as critical components in the delivery of child welfare services; and

WHEREAS, these cuts reduce funding for child welfare social workers and increase child welfare social worker caseloads; and

WHEREAS, these cuts curtail efforts to prevent the removal of children from their homes, to work with families to safely reunify children and/or find permanent, loving homes for children who cannot be reunified; and

WHEREAS, these cuts reduce programs and services that research has found are essential to mitigating the adverse affects of abuse and neglect on child development and on the physical, emotional and behavioral health of adolescent and adult survivors; and

WHEREAS, these cuts eliminate or severely reduce funding for foster youth aging out of the system; putting them at greater risk for homelessness, incarceration and death by impacting programs and services that support their ability to attend college, obtain/maintain housing and acquire employment; and

WHEREAS, these cuts jeopardize the ability of Child Welfare agencies to comply with federal child welfare service mandates and increase the likelihood of fiscal penalties for non-compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, does hereby declare there is a critical need to sustain the progress that has been made in the protection of abused and neglected children and it urges the Legislature to reject the continuation of last year's \$133 million dollar unilateral reduction in child welfare funding, and to hold the line against further cuts to the vital safety net of programs and services for abused and neglected children.

MARION ASHLEY
Fifth District, Chairman

BOB BUSTER
First District, Vice-Chair

JOHN TAVAGLIONE
Second District

JEFF STONE
Third District

JOHN BENOIT
Fourth District

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