

December 31, 2002

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 4, 2002, your Board adopted the Safe Haven Task Force's recommendations for more effectively implementing the Newborn Abandonment Law (SB 1368), also referred to as the "Safely Surrendered Baby Law" or the "Safe Haven Law"; and designated the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) as the lead Department for purposes of staffing this effort, and instructed my office to coordinate efforts through the Children's Planning Council (CPC) and the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). Additionally, your Board instructed me to report back to your Board on a quarterly basis on the status of the implementation of the recommendations. This is the second status report.

During the past quarter, October through December 2002, the following key activities have occurred:

- **State Launches Safely Surrendered Baby Public Information Campaign.** On October 2, 2002, the State launched its Safely Surrendered Baby Campaign. The first phase of the State's \$1.5 million campaign targeting women ages 14-38, included posters, brochures, and two radio spots in English and Spanish that ran in the County of Los Angeles. The second phase is scheduled to begin in 2003 and includes television ads, billboards, and training materials.

- **Univision Channel 34 aired a news segment on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.** In October 2002, Univision Channel 34, a local Spanish language television station, aired a news segment that ran multiple times, providing information on the Law and Los Angeles County's hotline, 877-BABYSAFE.
- **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Regional Office staff were trained on the Law.** As of October 31, 2002, all staff at DCFS Regional Offices participated in one-hour mandatory training sessions on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.
- **Additional municipal fire departments were designated as Safe Surrender sites.** On November 26, 2002, your Board designated the City of Glendale Fire Department and City of Long Beach Fire Department as Safe Surrender sites. Additional municipal fire stations will be designated in early 2003.
- **Safely Surrendered Baby Law Speakers Bureau created.** ICAN has developed a Speakers Bureau comprised of experts to make presentations on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and support programs available for women and families at risk for abandoning their babies.

A more detailed matrix indicating the implementation progress for each of the adopted recommendations is attached. Key activities planned for next quarter include: designating additional Los Angeles County Safe Haven sites; disseminating Safe Haven public information campaign materials Countywide; launching a Safe Haven Web page; and developing a Safely Surrendered Baby Law media campaign in the County of Los Angeles.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Deena Margolis at (213) 974-4604.

DEJ: ASD: DGM

Attachment

c: CPC
First 5 LA
ICAN

County Implementation of Newborn Abandonment Law (“Safely Surrendered Baby Law”)

**Safe Haven Task Force Recommendations
Status Report: Second Quarter (October 2002 to December 2002)**

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>Recommendation 1: Request the District Attorney and County Counsel – in consultation with the Children’s Planning Council (CPC), Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), and other appropriate entities – to: (a) develop recommendations for amendments to the Newborn Abandonment Law – SB 1368 (“Safe Haven Law”) that can contribute to its more effective implementation, including: (1) assuring the confidentiality and exploring the potential for the anonymity of the parent, (2) requiring all hospitals with emergency rooms and all other designated Safe Surrender sites to post uniform identifying Safe Surrender site markers, (3) considering extending the age of a newborn who can be safely surrendered from 72 hours to five days old, (4) expanding the designation of Safe Surrender sites to include, at a minimum, hospitals without emergency departments and County fire stations, and (5) expanding the “Good Samaritan Law” to include adults who assist others to safely surrender their babies; and (b) work with the California State Department of Social Services (CDSS) and other California counties’ representatives on a State-convened task force to finalize a legislative</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present recommendations for amendments to CDSS Legal and Policy Work Group. 2. Participate on State convened task force to finalize a legislative package to effect amendments. 	<p>Lead: District Attorney, County Counsel</p> <p>Support: CPC, ICAN, HASC, Chief Administrative Office Inter- governmental Relations (CAO-IGR)</p>	<p>In September 2002, the County submitted its review of the legislative proposal to the CDSS Legislative Work Group. CDSS has decided not to pursue the legislative package in the upcoming calendar year.</p> <p>The CAO-IGR will include recommendations for County-sponsored legislation reflecting the County-proposed legislative changes on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in the County’s Legislative Agenda for the 2003-2004 State legislative session.</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
package to effect these amendments to SB 1368.			
<p>Recommendation 2: Consider designating the following public entities as Safe Haven sites in Los Angeles County: (a) County and municipal fire stations, (b) County hospitals without emergency departments, (c) County health clinics, and (d) the County's Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs); and instruct the County Fire Chief and the Director of Health Services (DHS) – in consultation with the Sheriff, the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, and the Los Angeles Fire Chiefs' Association – to determine the feasibility of implementing these new Safe Haven sites, including a timeline and cost considerations, and report back to the Board within 60 days.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feasibility study of designating and implementing new Safe Haven sites, including a timeline and cost considerations. 2. Board designation of additional Safe Haven sites. 	<p>Lead: Fire, DHS</p> <p>Support: Sheriff, Los Angeles County Fire Chiefs' Association, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association</p>	<p>On November 26, 2002, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion, introduced by Supervisor Knabe, designating City of Long Beach Fire Department and City of Glendale Fire Department as Safe Surrender sites. Pre-assembled Newborn Safe Surrender kits were placed at all 34 participating fire stations. Designated departments will also be posting Safe Surrender signs at each of their fire stations. Prior to designation, staff from both departments were trained on procedures in the event of a newborn surrender. The Chief Administrative Office is coordinating the designation of additional municipal fire departments that have expressed interest in becoming designated sites in early 2003.</p> <p>The Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire) is conducting an assessment to determine the feasibility of designating the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) as Safe Surrender sites. The feasibility report will be submitted to the Board in January 2003. Fire is also developing a Safe Surrender training curriculum that will be included in the department's continuing education program.</p> <p>DHS is currently finalizing procedures to support the designation of DHS hospitals without emergency rooms and Comprehensive Health Centers as Safe Surrender sites.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3 Request First Five LA (formerly Los Angeles County Children and Families First – Proposition 10 Commission) – in consultation with the directors of the departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), DHS, Mental Health (DMH), Fire, the CPC, ICAN, Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE), HASC, religious leaders, and other appropriate organizations, and in collaboration with local, regional, and State agencies – to: a) develop and support the implementation of a regionally consistent Safe Haven Public Information Campaign that conveys a prevention-oriented message about California’s Safe Haven Law, and (b) identify ways to evaluate the effectiveness of that campaign.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and support the implementation of a regionally consistent Safe Haven Public Information Campaign; 2. Develop an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the campaign. 	<p>Lead: First Five LA</p> <p>Support: DCFS, DHS, DMH, Fire, CPC, ICAN, LACOE, HASC, other appropriate organizations</p>	<p>On October 2, 2002, the State launched its Safely Surrendered Baby Campaign. The first phase of the State’s \$1.5 million campaign, targeted at women ages 14-38, includes posters, brochures, and two radio spots in English and Spanish that ran in Los Angeles. The second phase is scheduled to begin in 2003, and includes television ads, billboards, and training materials.</p> <p>In October 2002, the Los Angeles County Public Information Work Group, led by First 5 LA, adopted a 90-day work plan that outlined initial outreach and resource development activities through December 2002. The following actions have occurred: 1) First 5 LA coordinated a news segment on Univision Channel 34, a Spanish language station, that ran multiple times over the period of one week, with information on the Law and the County’s hotline, 877-BABYSAFE; 2) State public information materials were customized with Los Angeles County information in December 2002 for distribution Countywide in January 2003; 3) a Los Angeles County Web site, <i>babysafela.org</i>, was developed to include key information on the law and a search capability for designated Safe Surrender sites; 4) a comprehensive database of County and community-based organizations has been developed for the distribution of public information and training materials, and 5) a list of key media and entertainment activities/contacts has been developed to initiate additional campaign activities, including advertising placements, in January 2003. First 5 LA is currently working with broadcast vendors to implement a multi-media campaign in the first quarter of 2003.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Instruct the Director of DCFS – in consultation with the directors of DHS, DMH, Fire, First Five LA, and HASC – to develop a</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop fact sheet. 2. Develop standardized 	<p>Lead: DCFS</p> <p>Support: DHS, DMH, Fire, First Five</p>	<p>As of October 31, 2002, all staff at DCFS Regional Offices participated in one-hour mandatory training sessions on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.</p>

<p>standardized training module to be used to educate staff and the families served by their agencies about the Safe Haven Law.</p>	<p>training module for County and non-County organizations to use to educate staff and families served by their agencies.</p>	<p>LA, HASC</p>	<p>In February 2003, DCFS will convene a Work Group of health, mental health, and child welfare experts to develop an expanded standardized training module to be used for educating staff and the families served about the Law. The County's standardized training module will be coordinated with the State's training program, which is currently under development. Once completed, the County training module will be disseminated to County departments and community-based providers, and utilized by the Speakers Bureau (Recommendation 9).</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Instruct the directors of all County education, health, justice, mental health, and social service organizations, including the directors of contracted agencies, to: (a) engage appropriate staff in discussions about the Safe Haven Law as part of their annual in-service staff education programs; (b) on an ongoing basis, engage women of childbearing age and their families in discussions about the Safe Haven Law, options for assuring the well-being of their babies, and support programs available to them; and (c) request that the directors of all community- and faith-based educational, health, mental health, and social service organizations engage their staffs and the families they serve in these same educational activities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County departments and contracted agencies must develop an internal plan to utilize the standardized training module (referenced in Recommendation 4) to educate staff about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in their annual in-service staff education programs. 2. County departments and contracted agencies must develop internal policies and plans to educate clients about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. 	<p>Lead: Department of Human Resources (DHR), Chief Administrative Office</p> <p>Support: All education, health, justice, mental health, and social service organizations, including the directors of contracted agencies.</p>	<p>Upon completion of Safely Surrendered Baby Law training materials (Recommendation 4), DHR will disseminate information to County departments. Departments will be requested to share this information with their contracted agencies.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Request the Superintendent of LACOE to work with the State Superintendent of Instruction, State Board of Education, and the California State PTA to develop or augment curricula on</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop new or augmented curricula on healthy sexual development for middle and high school students that 	<p>Lead: LACOE</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2002, LACOE has briefed the California State PTA, the five Los Angeles County PTA district presidents, and health educators in Los Angeles County about LACOE's plan to include information on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in school curriculum. The State PTA will be receiving press packets on the</p>

<p>healthy sexual development for middle and high school students, including information about pregnancy prevention and teen pregnancy; the Safe Haven Law; where and how to safely surrender a baby; related support programs; the social, cultural, and psychological factors influencing women's attitudes about pregnancy and childbirth, and the unique physical and psychosocial aspects of childbearing.</p>	<p>includes resources about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and relevant support programs.</p>		<p>Law, and articles will be prepared for their Statewide newsletter. Promotional materials and curriculum developed by the Child Protection and Family Support Services, California Department of Social Services, have been requested for each district.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: Instruct the Chief Information Officer to incorporate into the soon-to-be operational Countywide Web Portal an internet-accessible link with basic information about health, mental health, and social service organizations that provide prevention and intervention services to women and families at risk for abandoning their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Web site to provide the public with information on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and related resources. 2. Create an internet-accessible link to the Countywide Web Portal with basic information to support implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. 	<p>Lead: CIO, ISD</p> <p>Support: DHS, CAO</p>	<p>Los Angeles County's Web site, <i>babysafela.org</i>, will be launched in January 2003. The Web site includes key information on the Law and resource information specific to surrendering an infant in Los Angeles County. The site also includes a search engine to identify designated Safe Surrender sites by zip code. The Countywide Portal is currently operational and will provide a direct link to the Web site.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8: Instruct the directors of the County departments and agencies that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines, and request other organizations that administer hotlines/warm lines, to assure that these services provide information regarding the Safe Haven Law and support services available for women and families at risk for abandoning their infants, or who feel they are not able to keep or care for their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct directors of departments and other organizations that administer hotlines/warm lines to include information and resources about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in their services. 	<p>Lead: Directors of County departments and agencies that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines.</p> <p>Support: CAO</p>	<p>A database of County departments and community-based providers that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines has been compiled. State and County-developed training materials and resources will be provided to the organizations in the database.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 Request that ICAN – with input and support from its public and private members – the CPC, faith-based organizations, and First 5 LA establish a Speakers’ Bureau to provide speakers who can make presentations to service providers and community groups about the Safe Haven Law and support programs available for women and families at risk for abandoning their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify participants in Speakers’ Bureau. 2. Provide training materials and support to the Speakers’ Bureau. 3. Publicize availability of Speakers’ Bureau for use by County departments and community groups. 	<p>Lead: ICAN</p> <p>Support: CPC, faith-based organizations, and First 5 LA</p>	<p>ICAN has identified 35 individuals who have volunteered to be speakers for the Safely Surrendered Baby Law Speakers Bureau. They include two people who can provide presentations for the hearing impaired using sign language, three who are Spanish-speaking, and one who will arrange interpretation for Asian-Pacific languages. The speakers are professionals who have been recruited from ICAN agencies, child abuse councils, clergy, and community, non-profit agencies. Additional efforts are underway to identify at least two additional volunteers who speak Spanish.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: Instruct DHR, with support from the directors of all County departments and agencies, to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate Safe Haven resources and information to all 	<p>Lead: DHR, directors of all County departments and</p>	<p>A segment on the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law will be included in one of the early 2003 Noontime Health and Wellness Seminars arranged by DHR for County employees. Other County</p>

<p>inform all current and new County employees about the Safe Haven Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby.</p>	<p>County departments and agencies.</p> <p>2. Provide information and resources about Safe Haven Law to all new County employees.</p>	<p>agencies</p>	<p>department clusters with similar programs will be encouraged to replicate the segment in appropriate programs. In addition, the County Commission for Women has agreed to disseminate all Safe Surrender handouts at key events and to place informational updates on their Web site. The Commission also co-hosted a community forum on the Safe Haven Law with Supervisor Don Knabe in September 2002.</p> <p>DHR has coordinated with the Auditor-Controller to use the pay warrant to alert County employees about the Law, hotline and Web site in March or April 2003. In addition, DHR has developed a directive to be disseminated in January 2003 to all County department heads to recommend ways in which they can support the implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law within their departments by making information available to all employees.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: Instruct the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD) and County Counsel, with the support of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), to explore the feasibility of ensuring that all new and renewed County contracts stipulate that each staff person in that contract organization be provided with information about the Safe Haven Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby, and report back to the Board with an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations within 60 days.</p>	<p>1. Develop a feasibility study for incorporating Safe Haven information into the County's contracting process.</p>	<p>Lead: ISD, County Counsel</p> <p>Support: CAO</p>	<p>By February 2003, the Audit Committee will review the Board Policy Manual Statement requiring County contractors to provide information to their employees about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and its implementation in Los Angeles County. The Policy Statement includes standard solicitation and contract language. Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, as recommended by the Audit Committee, the CAO will issue implementation instructions to all departments requiring inclusion of the new language and a fact sheet in all solicitations, service contracts, commodity agreements, and purchase orders. ISD will provide this information to the Countywide Contracting Network group and the Material Managers via e-mail.</p> <p>ISD will also revise the solicitation and sample contract models and revise training materials for its two-day contract training to reflect the new contract requirements. ISD will also update the County's "Doing Business with Us" web site to reflect this new requirement.</p>

<p>Recommendation 12: Request that ICAN – with the support of the Director of DCFS and input from the District Attorney’s Office – and the directors of DHS and DMH identify a key set of data elements that will be collected regarding all newborns safely surrendered or abandoned in Los Angeles County, consistent with State instructions for data collection through the Child Welfare System/Case Management System, and report back to the Board with an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations for collecting these data within 60 days.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a key set of data elements that will be collected regarding all newborns safely surrendered or abandoned in LA County. 2. Develop an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations for collecting these data elements. 	<p>Lead: ICAN</p> <p>Support: DCFS, DHS, DMH, District Attorney</p>	<p>ICAN has established notification systems with DCFS and the Coroner’s Office as a first step in gathering key data elements for safely surrendered and abandoned infants in Los Angeles County. DCFS has agreed to notify ICAN of each safely surrendered and surviving abandoned infant, and the Coroner’s Office has developed a system to notify ICAN of each deceased abandoned infant.</p> <p>ICAN has also developed and implemented a database to record key data elements for each case, as established by ICANs multi-agency Safe Haven Data Group. Data on safely surrendered and abandoned infants for 2002 has been identified and entered into the database. ICAN is currently obtaining data elements on identified cases of deceased abandoned infants by contacting law enforcement, the District Attorney’s Office, and others for information.</p> <p>As agreed upon by the Safe Haven Data Group, DCFS will collect key data elements for safely surrendered and surviving abandoned infants. By January 15, 2003, DCFS will identify staff responsible for coordinating this effort. Once data has been collected for 2002 cases of safely surrendered and abandoned infants, ICAN will analyze the data in an effort to provide information to support effective implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.</p>
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