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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

February 7, 2011

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains a pursuit of County-sponsored legislation to secure funding for hospital in-patient services provided for detained juveniles; two pursuits of County position relating to legislation to appropriate funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care services and open dependency court hearings; and an update on County-sponsored legislation that would require the State to reimburse counties for elections called by the Governor to fill State and Federal legislative vacancies.

Pursuit of County-Sponsored Legislation

Consistent with existing Board policies to support legislation to reduce the number of uninsured persons including juveniles within county probation systems, and to support proposals that seek to maximize County reimbursement for services, we will pursue County-sponsored legislation to secure funding for detained juveniles who are admitted to a hospital for treatment and away from a county detention facility for more than 24 hours.

Under Federal law, minors who are held in a State or local juvenile detention facility are ineligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits. Detained minors have access to health care while in juvenile detention facilities; however, the services available are limited in scope. In some cases, detained minors may need medical care at a hospital outside of the detention facility. Currently, there is no funding mechanism to provide reimbursement for these services; therefore, the County incurs the cost of hospital in-patient care for detained juveniles.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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This proposal would seek legislation to secure funding for detained minors who are admitted to a hospital for treatment and are away from a detention facility for more than 24 hours. The Department of Health Services indicates that the medical treatment minors receive in the hospital is vital for their health, as well as for the health of the other detainees and probation staff, and that this proposal would provide funding for critical health care services for detained minors.

Therefore, consistent with existing Board policies to support legislation to reduce the number of uninsured persons including juveniles within county probation systems, and to support proposals that seek to maximize County reimbursement for services, **the Sacramento advocates will pursue County-sponsored legislation to secure funding for hospital in-patient services provided for detained juveniles.**

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1 (J. Pérez), as amended on January 14, 2011, would appropriate \$60.0 million for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care services. The bill would also require that funds be directed to families that were receiving, or would have been eligible to receive, CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care services, before or after October 31, 2010 and through March 31, 2011. The bill contains an urgency clause and would be effective immediately upon the Governor's signature.

In October 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed \$256.0 million in funding for the CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care Program from the FY 2010-11 State Budget. CalWORKs recipients participating in welfare-to-work activities that lead to employment and self-sufficiency are eligible for child care for their children. Stage 3 Child Care provides assistance to former CalWORKs families who are working but are otherwise eligible for child care. These parents rely on Stage 3 Child Care in order to continue working and to provide a safe environment for their children. Assembly Speaker Pérez has indicated that he intends to seek a full restoration of Stage 3 Child Care funding.

According to the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, 17,200 children ages birth through 12 years of age in the County were due to lose their child care services as of November 1, 2010, resulting from the elimination of funding for Stage 3 Child Care. Additionally an estimated 6,000 providers, largely licensed centers and family child care homes serving these families, were also at risk of reducing or closing their operations and 13 organizations that administer these funds would potentially experience approximately 400 layoffs. AB 1 would provide partial restoration of funding that was vetoed by the Governor and allow working families to retain needed child care services.

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The Chief Executive Office supports AB 1. Therefore, consistent with existing Board policy to support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized high quality early care and education services, the **Sacramento advocates will support AB 1 and similar legislation that would appropriate funds for CalWORKS Stage 3 Child Care services.**

There is no registered support or opposition on file. This measure has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

AB 73 (Feuer), as introduced on December 21, 2010, expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to open juvenile dependency court hearings to the public unless the court finds that admitting the public would not be in a child's best interest. AB 73 was developed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Assembly Member Mike Feuer.

In the November 2, 2010 Sacramento Update, we advised your Board that the Sacramento advocates would pursue County-sponsored legislation to establish a three-year pilot project to allow members of the public to be admitted to juvenile dependency court hearings. The pilot project would allow hearings to be closed if the court determines it is in the best interest of the child who is before the court as a witness or party, and would also require that a report be submitted at the conclusion of the pilot project to the Judicial Council and the California Department of Social Services evaluating the impact of open court hearings.

As introduced, AB 73 simply cites legislative intent and must be amended to address specifics for open dependency court hearings. **The Sacramento advocates are working with the author's office and Assembly Judiciary Committee staff on bill language drafted by County Counsel. Therefore, consistent with existing Board policy to pursue legislation to open juvenile court dependency hearings to the public, the Sacramento advocates will support AB 73.**

There is no recorded support or opposition to AB 73 at this time. The measure has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

SB 141 (Price), as introduced on January 31, 2011, would require the State to reimburse counties for elections to fill State and Federal legislative vacancies. This proposal would add provisions requiring that all expenses incurred to conduct elections called by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of State Senator, Member of the Assembly, United States Senator or Representative in Congress be paid by the State.

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The bill also states that when an election proclaimed by the Governor is consolidated with a local election, the State would pay only for those expenses directly related to the elections proclaimed by the Governor.

SB 141 is currently in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a Policy Committee. There is no support or opposition currently on file.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:OR:IGEA:lm

c: All Department Heads
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