



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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2009

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August 4, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

49

AUGUST 4, 2009

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APPROVE AMENDING THE CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY BOARD'S MEETING SCHEDULE

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Chief Information Office

Richard Sanchez

Department of

Children and Family Services

Patricia S. Ploehn

Department of

Public Social Services

Phillip L. Browning

Child Support Services

Department

Steven J. Golightly

Los Angeles Superior Court

Kristine Reiser-Juick

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

California Department of Child Support Services

Mary Lawrence

Franchise Tax Board

(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Board approval is being requested to allow the Child Support Advisory Board (CSAB) to meet every other month for the remainder of 2009.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the CSAB's request to amend the Advisory Board's meetings schedule from monthly to every other month for the balance of 2009, in order to assist the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) in that since the economic downturn CSSD has experienced an increased caseload, a hiring freeze, and reduced staffing levels.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION/JUSTIFICATION:

Steven Golightly, the CSSD Director, has advised the CSAB that a six month extension of the previously approved amendment to the Child Support Advisory Board's meeting schedule on January 29, 2008 approved by your Board, would allow the CSSD to address additional case loads and requirements, e.g. staff training, pilot project implementation, etc.

Prior to implementation of the new statewide automated case management system, known as the CCSAS, on average the CSSD would generate 5,000 case openings per month. Currently, CSSD is generating approximately 350 cases opening per day increasing the workload to

workload to approximately 7,000 cases per month - a 40% increase. Contributing factors include the faltering economy, about 20% of County residents are receiving some form of cash aid, General Relief offices are filled, and the Department of Public Social Services and CalWorks cases are rising dramatically.

Mr. Golightly also indicated that preparing for the monthly CSAB meetings consumes a significant amount of staff time which is already stretched to the limit.

At the June 25, 2009 meeting of the CSAB, there was unanimous support for maintaining the reduced meeting schedule in 2009 to every other month while CSSD makes efforts to address its increased work load.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:

The request for rescheduling the Advisory Board meetings is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being), by allowing the CSSD sufficient time to address their increased work load without too many interruptions that the Advisory Board meetings sometimes create.

FINANCING/FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The CSAB, formerly the Family Support Advisory Board, was established by the Board of Supervisors by Board Order 86 on May 20, 1989.

The CSAB is responsible for working with CSSD to improve client services and meet the performance standards set by the State and the Federal government. In addition, the CSAB reviews issues referred by the Board, and reports to the Board on the status of County child support services as well as on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of CSSD operations.

The CSAB consists of 17 members, two appointed by each Supervisor; the Director of Public Social Services; Director of Child Support Services Department; presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court; Director of Children and Family Services; Chief Information Officer; State Franchise Tax Board (Ex Officio); and California Department of Child Support Services (Ex Officio).

Because there are no by-laws in the ordinance explicitly indicating the frequency by which the Advisory Board should meet, we respectfully request that the Board grant approval to meet every other month for the remainder of 2009.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

The CSSD is able to provide better service to the public if they are able to devote more time to working their caseloads and implementing a pilot project in a timely manner. Setting fewer meetings for the balance of the year should assist CSSD in handling its internal caseload to the Board's and the County's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy T. Eisenberg, Esq.
Chairperson

LTE:lm

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
Commission Services
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Child Support Services Department
Chairperson, Child Support Advisory Board