

Background:

The Board is requested to adopt a resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and display the Children's Memorial Flag the week of April 13th and on April 27, 2009

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time when our community comes together to speak out about the fact that children are abused, neglected and abandoned in our community every day and the abuse must stop. We come together to recommit our energy and resources to the ongoing battle to end child abuse and child deaths due to abuse.

Early intervention and prevention are the most effective tools to stop child abuse. Saving a child the trauma of abuse by helping the family when problems first begin to manifest themselves is the goal of early intervention. Engaging families in services immediately is an essential component in ending abuse through teaching parents alternative ways to discipline their child. We are not born with good parenting skills. They are developed through role modeling, mentoring and education. Developing good parenting skills is a process. The need for these skills crosses all economic, educational, ethnic and cultural lines. Navigating the road to healthy parenting is not always easy or fast but it is essential for the children in our community.

Education of the community is a vital component of prevention and early identification of problems. It also helps us all to understand that child safety is a community responsibility. We must all work together to bring an end to child abuse.

Child Abuse Sonoma County, California Parenting Institute, Exchange Club and other organizations are sponsoring the Sonoma County Blue Ribbon Campaign for this year. They educate the community through the media and distribute free resources. They also provide referral information to help everyone actively prevent abuse and neglect.

During the month of April, California Parenting Institute is offering a number of free parenting classes to the community. Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma County- Real Boys: Listening to Their Voices - is hosting a luncheon for community agencies involved with prevention and treatment of child abuse on April 29th. It will be held at Mary Agatha Furth Center 8400 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California.

By declaring April as Sonoma County Child Abuse Prevention Month and by flying the CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG you are standing up to the challenge of keeping children safe and through your leadership you are guiding the community in the efforts to stop child abuse

Recommendation: The Board is requested to adopt a resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and display the Children's Memorial Flag the week of April 13th and on April 27, 2009

Attachments:

Resolution

On File with Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If Other than "Requested")

Vote: