

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Clerk of the Board Use Only**  
**Meeting Date**                      **Held Until**  
 /     /                                      /     /  
**Agenda Item No:**                      **Agenda Item No:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_                                      \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Child Support Services

(   ) **4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Helena Whistler

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-4142

**Board Date:**  
8/4/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
8/25/09

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Proclamation**

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Adopt Resolution Proclaiming August 2009 Child Support Awareness Month.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD**

**Estimated Cost**                      \$

**Contingencies**                      \$  
(Fund Name:)

**Amount Budgeted**                      \$

**Unanticipated Revenue**                      \$  
(Source:)

**Other Avail Approp.**                      \$  
(Explain below)

**Other Transfer(s)**                      \$  
(Source:)

**Additional Requested:**                      \$

**Add'l Funds Requested:**                      \$

**Explanation (if required):**

**Prior Board Action(s):**

The Board has proclaimed August as Child Support Awareness Month annually since 1995.

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: n/a**

**Background:** The annual observance of Child Support Awareness Month began in 1983 when Congress designated the month of August as National Child Support Enforcement Month; President Ronald Reagan issued the first proclamation on August 5, 1983. Since 1995, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has joined the Governor of the State of California and the President of the United States of America in proclaiming the month of August as "Child Support Awareness Month" to increase public awareness about the plight of thousands of children in our county, as well as millions of children nationwide who go without the financial and emotional support of both parents.

The California Department of Child Support Services' mission is to promote the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by assisting both parents to meet the financial, medical and emotional needs of their children. The Sonoma County Department of Child Support Services, along with other local child support agencies throughout the state, works to establish, collect and distribute child support for children in California, as well as to establish medical support and determine paternity.

In these difficult economic times, child support is both harder to collect and more imperative for families living from paycheck to paycheck. Since the inception of the California Department of Child Support Services in 2002, California has collected more than \$13.7 billion in child support of which Sonoma County collected more than \$257 million. To aid the counties in collecting child support the state is encouraging counties to work closely together, become more efficient and improve performance through the use of technology.

This August the State Department of Child Support Services with the support of the California Child Support Directors Association is launching a program designed to streamline the license suspension program by encouraging parents who have had a drivers or professional license suspended for failure to pay child support re-engage with the child support program and with their child/ren, and have their suspended licenses restored.

The "Get Back on the Road Again" campaign allows a parent to contact any of the 57 child support agencies and negotiate an agreement for the restoration of the license --- for example even if the child support case is "managed" by Los Angeles County, if it is more convenient for the parent to

**Attachments:** 1) Resolution.

**On File With Clerk:**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

**Vote:**

**Background:** (Continued)

work with Sonoma County to negotiate a release of the suspended license, the parent will now have that option. This simple step will assist county agencies in expanding their handling of cases with a "state-wide" perspective; increase public access to the child support program and improve collections and enforcement of child support obligations.

The Board of Supervisors is requested to adopt a Gold Resolution proclaiming August as Child Support Awareness Month.