

Background: A copy of the Child Care Needs Assessment is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

The Board of Supervisors is requested to accept a report from the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County on the "Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 Sonoma County", and to approve the report for submission to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division.

The Board of Supervisors originally established the Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council on October 20, 1992, to meet the requirements mandated by the passage of AB 2141, which created local child care and development planning councils to identify local priorities for child care and state preschool expansion funds, among other tasks.

Subsequently, with the passage of AB 1542 in 1997, which established the CalWORKs program, the Board was required to designate a local child care planning council to establish priorities for state-funded child care and development services and develop a comprehensive countywide plan for child care. On September 29, 1998, the Board of Supervisors designated the existing Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council as the local council required under the legislation.

In general, the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County advocates, advises and plans for quality, accessible and affordable child care and development services in Sonoma County.

Child Care Needs Assessment

The Department of Education requires local child care planning councils to do a county-wide assessment of local child care needs at least every five years. The Child Care Planning Council is required to submit the Needs Assessment to the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools for approval before submitting it to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. "Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 Sonoma County" has been reviewed and approved by the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools.

The "Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 Sonoma County" examines data in eleven local planning areas and includes the following State-required data:

1. Demographic data on children and their families
2. Child care supply by type, age, and location
3. Child care demand by type, age, and location
4. Children by race, ethnicity, and language spoken
5. Children with special needs and in special education programs
6. Children receiving Child Protective Services and families receiving preservation or maintenance services
7. Children receiving public assistance
8. Household and family income and measures of self-sufficiency
9. Children waiting for subsidized child care
10. Children in Head Start, State Preschool Programs, and other subsidy programs
11. Costs (fees) of child care by type and age
12. Children in Migrant Education Programs

Additionally, some future projections and analyses have been included, and the report has been structured to correspond with the outline of the current "For the Children: A Comprehensive Plan for Child Care and Learning Programs, Sonoma County 2005-2010" (Comprehensive Plan for Child Care).

Data Highlights and Findings include:

1. Over the next 10 years, the County's population of children will increase overall, and children as a percent of total population will increase from approximately 18.5% to 20.1% by 2019, according to projections by the California Department of Finance (DOF).
2. All community areas in the County have current shortages of child care spaces overall for all age groups, and all areas have a shortage of infant and school age care. Six of the 11 planning areas have a shortage of preschool spaces.
3. In 2009, there are about 13,200 children that are potentially eligible for subsidized child care and 4,359 subsidized spaces available, which compose 33% of potential demand.
4. Child care costs compose a significant portion of families' budgets and can be as high as 25% to 34%, depending on the number and age of children and family income.

The Coordinator of the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County, Carol Simmons, will give a brief presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the Needs Assessment.

Recommendation:

The Board of Supervisors is requested to accept a report from Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County on the "Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 Sonoma County", and to approve the report for submission to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division.

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: Brion & Associates Final Report for Sonoma County Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: