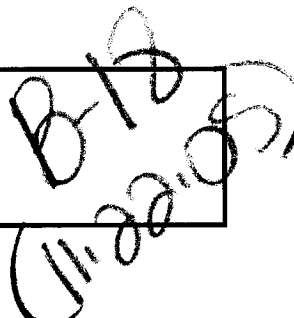


**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services		(2) MEETING DATE November 22, 2005		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lee Collins (805) 781-1825	
(4) SUBJECT Resolution Adopting Policies to Promote a Smoke-Free Environment for Foster Children					
(5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST Lee Collins, Director, Dept. of Social Services, is requesting adoption of the above-entitled Resolution.					
(6) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the above-entitled Resolution to promote a smoke-free environment for foster children of San Luis Obispo County.					
(7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A		(8) CURRENT YEAR COST N/A		(9) ANNUAL COST N/A	
(10) BUDGETED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> NO					
(11) OTHER AGENCY/ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT (LIST): N/A					
(12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help _____					
(13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, <u>All</u>			(14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(15) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			(16) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(17) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			(18) APPROPRIATION TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		

(19) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW	OK - Dan Budeshi	
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

3433 South Higuera, P.O. Box 8119, San Luis Obispo
California 93403-8119 (805) 781-1825 www.slodss.org

Leland W. Collins, Director

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Leland W. Collins
Social Services Director

Date: November 27, 2005

Subject: Resolution adopting policies to promote a smoke-free environment for foster children.

Recommendation

It is recommended that your Board approve a resolution adopting policies to promote a smoke-free environment for foster children.

Discussion

San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services and San Luis Obispo County Probation Department are responsible for and committed to the health and safety of foster children in their care. Research findings show that smoking and breathing of second hand smoke are significant health hazards, especially to children. Tobacco related illnesses are at the top of the list of preventable diseases in the United States. This is especially pertinent because foster children coming into the system often come from a background of neglect and have numerous health problems.

Other Agency Involvement

San Luis Obispo County Probation Department shares child-placing responsibility for foster children with San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services. Chief Probation Officer, Kim Barrett, is supportive of this recommendation. San Luis Obispo County Foster Parent Association, Local Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes have been informed of this proposal.

Financial Considerations

None

Results

- To protect the health and welfare of foster children by restricting exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Provide guidance and authority to child placing agencies, i.e. Social Services and Probation Departments, cooperating out-of-home placement resource agencies and care providers, to adopt policies and implement procedures aimed at reducing exposure of foster children to the pollution of second-hand smoke.

IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PRESENT: SUPERVISORS

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICIES TO PROMOTE A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

The following resolution is hereby offered and read:

WHEREAS, the County Of San Luis Obispo, State of California, through the County Department of Social Services, is committed to improving the health of children placed away from their birth families; and

WHEREAS, out-of home care providers for children include foster parents and relative care providers and care providers under supervision of cooperating agencies including Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes; and

WHEREAS, out-of- home care providers are expected to provide stable, safe, and nurturing home environment for these children; and

WHEREAS, foster parents play an important role in guiding a child on the path of life to becoming an adult; and

WHEREAS, the County Of San Luis Obispo is committed to protecting foster children from tobacco smoke pollution; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Tobacco smoke (ETS) is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers; and

WHEREAS, ETS is a complex mixture of chemicals generated during the burning, smoking, and chewing of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, over 50 compounds in tobacco smoke have been identified as carcinogens and six as developmental or reproductive toxicants under California's Proposition 65;

WHEREAS, exposure to ETS has been linked to adverse health outcomes including lung cancer, childhood asthma, lower respiratory tract infections and is an important source of exposure to toxic air contaminates indoors; and

WHEREAS, breathing secondhand smoke can be harmful to children's health including asthma, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), bronchitis and pneumonia and ear infections; and

WHEREAS, exposing foster children to secondhand smoke is known to increase the taxpayer costs for medical treatment, drugs, and other medical costs associated with foster children's exposure to tobacco smoke pollution; and

WHEREAS, many ETS constituents have been identified as hazardous by state, federal, and international agencies; and

WHEREAS, federal and state laws expressly prohibit the sale, possession, and use of tobacco products by minors under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, exposure to ETS in the home and in vehicles, especially of infants and children, is a public health concern; and

WHEREAS, federal and state government have made great strides in protecting their adult constituents, little has been done to protect foster children from secondhand smoke.

B-18
2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors, State of California, that the Board adopts the following policies to promote a smoke-free environment for children under jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services or Probation Department who are cared for in Foster Homes, Group Homes, or Relative homes:

Any person having custody of a foster child, including relatives, placed with them by Social Services or Probation Department, shall not allow or permit the child to smoke, nor furnish money for the expressed purpose of purchasing tobacco products, and

Foster parents, including relatives will not allow foster children to be exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke in their home, car and all other places under their control. Foster children should not be exposed to secondhand smoke at distance less than 20 feet. It is understood that a Foster Parent's decision to use tobacco is a personal decision and it is not the intent of this policy to regulate a Foster Parent's tobacco use.

Any person having custody of a foster child shall not smoke, nor permit others to smoke in a motor vehicle 12 hours prior to using that vehicle to transport a foster child.

Department of Social Services and Probation Department will collaborate with out-of-home care provider agencies to develop written procedures for implementing the purpose and intent of this Board policy.

Department of Social Services, Probation and cooperating out-of-home care resource agencies will work with Foster Parents to educate them with the objective to increase awareness of the health hazards of Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) and share ideas on how to protect foster children from ETS.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAINING:

The foregoing resolution is hereby adopted.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of San Luis Obispo, State of California

ATTEST:

County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors, County of San Luis
Obispo, State of California

B-18
4