



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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September 8, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
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Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW RECOMENDATIONS

On March 8, 2005, your Board adopted the Children's Planning Council's (CPC) recommendations to enhance implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) Law, California Health and Safety Code 1255.7. Additionally, your Board instructed my office to report back to your Board every six months for 18 months on the status of the implementation of the recommendations. This serves as the first of three status reports on the recommendations.

During the past six months, March through September 2005, the following key activities occurred:

- **County-sponsored legislation to repeal the sunset date on the SSB Law advances in Legislature.** Senate Bill 116 (Dutton) passed the Senate and Assembly Committees and is now awaiting consideration on the Assembly Floor before moving to Governor Schwarzenegger's desk.
- **SSB Public Information Workgroup develops Workplan.** On July 7, the Fire Department submitted a report to your Board outlining the Public Information Workplan developed by the Workgroup to address the following issues: Messaging, Strategic Partnerships, Media Partnerships and Earned Media, Print Materials, and the County's Web site.

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- **Public information materials on the SSB Law distributed to County departments and community-based organizations (CBOs).** In July 2005, my office distributed the remaining SSB print materials (brochures, wallet cards, and posters) to various departments, agencies, and CBOs throughout the County. The distribution will continue until all of the Phase I print materials have been depleted.

A more detailed matrix indicating the implementation status for each of the five adopted recommendations is attached. County departments and their community partners working on behalf of this important Law will continue their efforts to enhance the public information campaign, revise the training curriculum for County staff and CBOs, and provide key information to the public on the Law through the County's Web site, www.babysafela.org, and media outreach.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Deena Margolis at (213) 974-4604 or Tiffany Williams at (213) 974-4134.

DEJ:LS
DM:TW

Attachment

c: Yolie Flores Aguilar, Children's Planning Council
Evelyn Martinez, First 5 LA
Deanne Tilton, Interagency on Child Abuse and Neglect
Safe Haven Task Force

COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW
SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE II RECOMMENDATIONS
STATUS REPORT: MARCH 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2005

SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE II RECOMMENDATION	DELIVERABLES	ROLES	RESULTS
<p>RECOMMENDATION 1: Direct the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), in consultation with the District Attorney (DA), County Counsel, Children's Planning Council (CPC), the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), and other appropriate entities, to work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), State legislators, and other stakeholders to support SB 116 to eliminate the sunset provision in the Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) Law, California Health and Safety Code 1255.7.</p>	<p>1. Work to ensure legislation is passed to eliminate the sunset provision in the SSB Law.</p>	<p>LEAD: CAO</p> <p>SUPPORT: ICAN, DA, CPC, and CDSS.</p>	<p>County-sponsored SB 116 (Dutton), which would repeal the sunset date on the SSB Law in order to permanently provide for the safe surrender of infants as an alternative to abandonment, passed the Senate Floor on April 18, 2005 by a vote of 34 to 0. After unanimously passing the Assembly Public Safety, Judiciary and Appropriations Committees, it now awaits consideration on the Assembly Floor, and will then move to the Governor's desk.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2: Encourage members of the community, especially health and human services providers and representatives of faith-based organizations, to obtain information about how they can, as individuals, support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies.</p>	<p>1. Incorporate a message that encourages members of the community to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies into all SSB public information and training efforts.</p>	<p>LEAD/SUPPORT: All departments participating in the implementation of Recommendations 3 and 4.</p>	<p>Efforts to incorporate a message that encourages members of the community to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies into all SSB public information and training efforts are being implemented through Recommendations 3 and 4.</p> <p>Recommendation 3: The Training Committee is in the process of revising the SSB Law training curriculum, which will include information that encourages individuals to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies and provides individuals with examples as to how they can best support a mother in this situation.</p> <p>Recommendation 4: The Public Information subgroup responsible for reviewing the messaging around SSB and making updates to SSB print materials will be incorporating the message into all public information materials.</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 3: Instruct the Director of ICAN, in collaboration with the CAO, County Counsel, DA, Fire Chief, members of the New Directions Task Force, First Five LA, Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena health departments, the California Council of Churches, other faith-based organizations, and key stakeholders, to: a) revise and enhance the SSB Law training with information regarding how individuals can assist mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies; b) provide the SSB Law-related training to appropriate County staff and promote and encourage private health care providers, private health and human services professionals, clergy, and other interested individuals to participate in the training to enhance their abilities to support these mothers within their communities; and c) inform all County employees of the SSB Law particularly those provisions related to the responsibilities of, and legal protection for individuals assisting with a safe surrender.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise and enhance existing SSB Law training curriculum. 2. Determine and develop appropriate SSB Law training for County Staff. 3. Promote and encourage individuals in the community to participate in training to enhance their abilities to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies. 4. Develop curriculum for County trainers to train all County employees on the responsibilities of and legal protections for individuals assisting with a safe surrender. 	<p>LEAD: ICAN</p> <p>SUPPORT: Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), County Counsel, Mental Health (DMH), Fire, Public Social Services (DPSS), Probation, DA, CAO, Child Support Services (CSSD), PAC/LAC, Community Child Abuse Councils, Pasadena Public Health Department, and the California Council of Churches.</p>	<p>ICAN convened a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary committee to revise and enhance the existing SSB Law training and develop a training plan for County staff and the promotion of community awareness regarding the Law. The committee met on July 19 and August 23 and determined that the revised curriculum will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow flexibility for use by various departments/agencies; • Include a "core" portion for use by all departments/agencies. The core will include background information on the Law, the basic requirements of the Law, as well as information on assisting others in surrendering; • Include modules specifically written by and for departments that require specialized information (e.g., Fire Department, DHS hospital staff, DCFS); and • Include illustrative vignettes and handouts. <p>The committee made a preliminary determination to conduct train-the-trainer sessions for County training staff who will, in turn, train their respective department staff.</p> <p>The committee also identified various participants to revise specific curriculum modules and create an enhanced PowerPoint presentation to accompany the training curriculum.</p> <p>The committee will reconvene on September 26, to review and approve the revisions made by the committee.</p>

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<p><u>RECOMMENDATION 4:</u> Instruct the Fire Chief, in collaboration with the CAO and First Five LA, to reconvene a SSB Law Public Information Workgroup of key stakeholders, including members of the New Directions Task Force, ICAN, religious leaders, media, community representatives, and other appropriate local, regional, and State organizations, to evaluate the Phase I Public Information Strategy and to recommend a Phase II Public Information Strategy, including a timeline and cost considerations, and report back to the Board within 120 days.</p>	<p>1. Develop and implement Phase II Public Information Workplan that includes the following components: Messaging, Strategic Partnerships, Media Partnerships and Earned Media, Print Materials, and the County's Web site.</p>	<p><u>LEAD:</u> Fire</p> <p><u>SUPPORT:</u> Fourth District, DMH, ICAN, DCFS, CAO, Waste Management, City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families (CCYF), and First 5 LA.</p>	<p>The Fire Department and CAO convened an SSB Law Public Information workgroup to develop the Phase II Public Information Workplan. On July 7, the Fire Department submitted a report to the Board outlining the Workplan developed by the workgroup to address the following public information issues:</p> <p><u>Messaging</u> A subgroup was created to review the messaging around SSB and to make recommendations for updates to SSB print material content and design.</p> <p><u>Strategic Partnerships</u> A marketing plan and letter to solicit potential corporate or charitable foundation partners was developed and is currently being reviewed by the Fourth District.</p> <p><u>Media Partnerships and Earned Media</u> (1) A meeting is being arranged between Channel 7 and representatives from the SSB Public Information Workgroup. (2) On August 18, a subgroup convened to develop the media protocol and plan for future safe surrenders. The subgroup will also explore opportunities to obtain media attention, such as a celebration in honor of the fifth anniversary of the Law in January 2006 or a celebration in honor of a milestone number of safe surrenders.</p> <p><u>Print Materials</u> In July, the remaining SSB print materials (brochures, wallet cards, and posters) were distributed by CAO to various departments and agencies throughout the County. The distribution of material will continue until all of the Phase I print materials have been depleted.</p> <p><u>Web site</u> The design and content of the SSB Web site, www.babysafela.org, is currently being reviewed. The update is scheduled to be completed by November 2005.</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 5: Request the Superintendent of Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to work with CDSS and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, and the California State PTA to expedite finalization and implementation of curricula on healthy sexual development for middle and high school students, that includes information about pregnancy prevention and teen pregnancy; the SSB Law, and relinquishment for adoption.</p>	<p>1. Implement curriculum on healthy sexual development, including information on the SSB Law in middle and high schools.</p>	<p>LEAD: LACOE SUPPORT: CDSS</p>	<p>Since March, the County has initiated several contacts with CDSS to encourage expedited finalization of the curriculum and to explore options for implementing the curriculum in schools. CDSS is currently reviewing the request and a response is pending.</p>