



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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March 8, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

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 every six months, for 18 months, on the status of the recommendations. This serves as the second of three status reports.

During the past six months, September 2005 through March 2006, the following key activities occurred:

- **County-sponsored legislation to repeal the sunset date on the SSB Law.** Senate Bill 116 (Dutton) was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 7, 2005, and became effective on January 1, 2006.
- **SSB Public Information Workgroup.** The Public Information Workgroup continued to convene meetings and bi-weekly conference calls to address the following issues: Messaging, Strategic Partnerships, Media Partnerships and Earned (free) Media, Print Materials, and the County's Web site.
- **Revised print campaign on the SSB Law.** A new design was developed for the SSB print campaign which includes: brochures, posters, and fact sheet. Also, the print materials messaging was enhanced to include language that

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supports other surrendering adults, who are given lawful custody, to surrender a baby on behalf of the parent.

A 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, develop training plans to train the appropriate County staff and CBOs, develop a new print campaign, 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 Tiffany Williams at (213) 974-4134 or ttwill@cao.co.la.ca.us.

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TW

Attachment

- c. Yolie Flores Aguilar, Children's Planning Council
Evelyn Martinez, First 5 LA
Deane 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: SEPTEMBER 2005 TO MARCH 2006**

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 repeals the sunset date on the SSB Law in order to permanently provide for the safe surrender of infants as an alternative to abandonment, was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 7, 2005, and became effective on January 1, 2006.</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 messaging that encourages members of the community to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies into all SSB public information and training efforts is being implemented through Recommendations 3 and 4.</p> <p>Recommendation 3: The revised training curriculum will include information that encourages individuals to support mothers who choose to safely surrender their babies.</p> <p>Recommendation 4: The Public Information Workgroup will also be incorporating that messaging into all revised print materials.</p>

SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE II RECOMMENDATION	DELIVERABLES	ROLES	RESULTS
<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><u>LEAD:</u> ICAN</p> <p><u>SUPPORT:</u> Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services 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>A multi-agency, multi-disciplinary SSB Training Committee was convened by ICAN and met monthly during the past six months to revise and enhance the training curriculum for County staff and promote community awareness regarding the Law. Content for this curriculum has been finalized and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility for use by various departments/agencies; • A "core" portion for use by all departments/agencies consisting of background information and basic requirements of the Law, as well as information on assisting others with safe surrenders; and • Illustrative vignettes and handouts. <p>The curriculum has been submitted to CPC for formatting and the addition of graphics developed for the revised print campaign. In addition, the Training Committee identified departments in need of agency-specific training modules for staff that could potentially have direct contact with safely surrendered babies -- DCFS, DHS (hospitals) and fire stations. A subgroup for each agency began meeting to develop specific training. The following has been accomplished:</p> <p><u>DCFS</u> Training Section has reviewed its existing policy and training curriculum, and began making required changes.</p> <p><u>DHS</u> Designed a tentative training outline currently being reviewed by its Acute Care and Public Health sections, as well as PAC/LAC. DHS also plans to provide four training sessions for public and private hospitals across the County.</p> <p><u>FIRE</u> Created a script for a training video that will include fire station-specific information and several interactive vignettes explaining how to handle different safe surrender situations.</p> <p>Once the training curriculum is finalized, a copy of these materials will be sent to Department heads, with a letter from Supervisor Knabe, requesting departments to develop a training plan and use the curriculum to train appropriate staff.</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 4: 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>LEAD: Fire SUPPORT: 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 convened the SSB Public Information Workgroup twice and held bi-weekly conference calls to continue development of the Phase II Public Information Workplan, which was submitted to the Board on July 7, 2005. Funding to support public information activities is being provided through a \$50,000 allocation for FY 2006-07 from the Fourth District. These funds will be transferred into an account administered by CPC. A budget utilizing these funds was developed by CPC and is currently being reviewed for approval by the Fourth District. Progress in each of the following areas has been achieved:</p> <p><u>Messaging</u> A second subgroup meeting was held to review specific content of the SSB brochure, poster, and fact sheet. The final content was developed and forwarded to CPC for incorporation into the design templates.</p> <p><u>Strategic Partnerships</u> A marketing plan and letter to solicit potential corporate or charitable foundation partners was developed and is being reviewed by the Fourth District.</p> <p><u>Media Partnerships and Earned Media</u> A media plan is being developed to strategically focus on attainable media placements; recent articles include the <i>Sacramento Bee</i> column on 2/4/06 and the <i>Daily News</i> reprint on 2/13/06.</p> <p>In March 2006, a media event is planned to highlight SSB, including the reunion of an adoptive family with the firefighting crew that received the child on June 19, 2005. Continual media outreach will occur on an ongoing basis to highlight story angles.</p> <p><u>Print Materials</u> Limited supplies of existing SSB print materials (brochures, wallet cards, and posters from original information campaign) remain from July 2005 CAO distribution to County departments and agencies. Workgroup members from CPC, Fire, CAO, and ICAN collaborated to produce a more compelling graphic design for use on all SSB print and digital materials, including a new brochure, poster, fact sheet and training materials. CAO Public Affairs is seeking printing services from the Sheriff's Department to alleviate costs.</p>

SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE II RECOMMENDATION	DELIVERABLES	ROLES	RESULTS
<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><u>Web site</u> Using the newly created SSB campaign design, the content of the SSB Web site, www.babysafela.org, will be revised in 2006 to reflect the new design of the print materials. The Web site will eventually be transferred to CPC who will host the site and update as needed.</p> <p>Plans include increased resources for reporters (including a digital press kit), down-loadable promotional materials, and a periodically released electronic newsletter with targeted distribution.</p> <p>Since March 2005, the County initiated several contacts with CDSS to encourage finalization of the curriculum and explore options for implementing the curriculum in schools. In lieu of the CDSS materials, in January 2006, LACOE submitted a \$10,000 proposal to the Fourth District and CAO to develop a new lesson plan appropriate for ninth- and/or tenth-graders in health, science, and physical education classes. The proposal includes strategies for offering SSB materials to high schools and continuation schools throughout Los Angeles County. The proposal is pending approval of the Fourth District.</p>