

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, MD, MPH Health Officer and Department Director of Health and Human Services  
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: March 16, 2010

SUBJECT: **PROCLAMATION**- Approve a Proclamation declaring April 2010 as, "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation declaring April 2010 as, "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services has many community partners who participate actively in pursuing the goal of reducing child abuse and neglect for Placer County children. The county is nationally recognized for its successful innovative and integrated family-centered approach to services to vulnerable children and families. An approach often referred to across the country as the "Placer Model."

This innovative service model as a partnership with individuals, community based agencies, and families who need services or resources from multiple human service agencies to be safe and successful at home, in school, and in the community, and through this assistance, make the community a better place to live.

Since 2004, this approach has resulted in a host of positive outcomes, including a 20% reduction in foster placements, and more than 100 foster children being successfully adopted since 2005.

April 2010 is, "National Child Abuse Awareness Month" and Placer County desires to support and acknowledge all of the outstanding partners, and Placer families who diligently work to prevent abuse and neglect and keep Placer's young people safe and healthy.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal cost associated with this item.

**In the matter of a Proclamation  
declaring April 2010 as  
"Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Placer County**

**WHEREAS**, one of our greatest resources is our children and youth, and our future will be determined by their innovative ideas, talents and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on the involvement of all citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, when children grow and develop in a safe, caring and nurturing home environment, they are more likely to succeed as adults and make a positive impact in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, child maltreatment occurs when parents or other caregivers find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and do not know how to cope or access those resources; and

**WHEREAS**, we can fulfill our duty to ensure that every child in our community has a safe and healthy upbringing by working together to prevent child abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific studies have confirmed a direct link between child abuse and a significantly greater risk later in life for divorce, substance abuse, crime, suicide, heart disease, obesity and other crisis situations; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect in this Country is \$103.8 billion associated with child protection, law enforcement, health and mental health treatment, courts, and special education according to a 2007 study conducted by Prevent Child Abuse America; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County is nationally recognized for its successful innovative and integrated family-centered approach in serving vulnerable children and families, and has in recent years successfully reduced the number of children requiring out of home services, and

**WHEREAS**, this Placer Model has resulted in an ongoing reduction of more than 20% fewer young people in foster care, and more than 100 children being successfully adopted since 2005. In so doing, the county works in partnership with individuals and families who need services from multiple human service agencies, to be safe and successful at home, in school, and in the community, and through this assistance, make the community a better place to live.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN** that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare April 2010 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and reaffirms its dedication to preventing child abuse and protecting our community's children. **BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the Board calls upon all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to support families thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

This Commendation presented on March 31, 2010 at the National Child Abuse  
Prevention Month Leadership Luncheon

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Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4  
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