


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
InterDepartmental Correspondence

DATE: October 11, 2002

HEARING DATE: October 22, 2002

To: Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Jerry Hill 
Re: Stuart Foundation Grant to San Mateo County Human Services Agency for
Fatherhood Project

Background

In May 2002, the Stuart Foundation awarded the National Family Preservation Network a \$483,000 grant to work with the state of Washington and the County of San Mateo to develop a program aimed at strengthening the child welfare system by restoring fathers back into the lives of their children.

The three-year project began with a September 24, 2002 kick-off event that featured distinguished speaker, Dr. Omawale Satterwhite. According to the Fatherhood Project Coordinator, the San Mateo County Human Services Agency was selected as one of the grant sites because of its strong leadership, excellent working relationships with community partners, commitment to service integration and responsive, client-centered child welfare staff. The overall goal of the grant is to include more fathers in case practice, thereby improving the lives of children in San Mateo County.

It is estimated that nationwide, one third of all children live apart from their biological fathers. Children who live without contact with their biological father, in comparison to children who have contact, are negatively impacted in a number of ways. They are five times more likely to live in poverty, more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, twice as likely to commit crime, drop out of school and be abused, and more likely to commit suicide.

Training for child welfare staff to assist in the elimination of barriers and integrate father-friendly practices into the child welfare system in the County will begin in late November.

Vision Alignment

The Fatherhood Project meets Shared Vision 2010 Goal 6 – Children grow up healthy in safe and supportive homes and families.