




COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: December 9, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 17, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard Gordon, Supervisor 

SUBJECT: Amendment to Sections 2.70.010, 2.70.020, and 2.70.030 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code Changing the Name and the Membership Composition of the Children and Families First Commission

Recommendation

Approve an amendment to sections 2.70.010, 2.70.020, and 2.70.030 of San Mateo County Ordinance Code changing the name of the Children and Families First Commission to First 5 San Mateo County and changing the membership composition of the Commission by replacing the District Attorney with the Chief of Pediatrics, San Mateo County Medical Center.

Background

At their August meeting, the Children and Families First Commission voted to change the name of the organization from Children and Families First Commission to First 5 San Mateo County. This name change was approved in response to the State Commission having changed its name from California Children and Families First Commission to First 5 California. Moreover, a substantial majority of the 58 counties in California have changed the name of their Commissions consistent with the state name change.

Since the inception of the Commission in 1999, the District Attorney has served as one of its nine members. The Board premised the selection of the District Attorney as a member of the Commission on the basis that the District Attorney's Family Support Division was responsible for protecting children 0 to 5 years old. However, earlier this year, in response to a change in state law, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the county ordinance code removing the responsibility and oversight of Family Support from the Office of the District Attorney. Because of this change, the District Attorney suggested that it might

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be appropriate for their to be a change in membership since he no longer had the responsibility for Family Support services.

In evaluating the appropriate area of professional discipline to replace the District Attorney's position on the Commission, it has been recognized that there is a need for the expertise of a health professional to serve on the Commission. The Commission has as one of its strategic initiative priorities, the improvement of health care for children 0 to 5. Adding a pediatrician to the Commission membership will greatly assist the Commission in better understanding and furthering its goals of improving health care.

Discussion

The name change from Children and Families Support Services to First 5 San Mateo County brings this county in line with the new name of the state commission and with the substantial majority of counties in California.

The change in membership composition from the District Attorney to the Chief of Pediatrics, San Mateo County Medical Center, will assist the Commission in achieving one of its important strategic initiative priorities of improving health care in children 0-5.

Vision Alignment

The ordinance changes further the county's goal that all children ages 0-5 years have access to childcare/early learning opportunities that contribute to their entering kindergarten ready to succeed. In addition, the ordinance changes helps to maintain the county's commitment of responsive, effective and collaborative government.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the county from either the name change or the membership composition change to the county ordinance.