

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Probation	(2) MEETING DATE 5/8/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Jim Salio 781.1039	
(4) SUBJECT Withdrawal of proposed ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board withdraw from consideration the proposed ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 min.</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(14) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>12/13/2011 and 1/17/2012</u>	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Probation / Jim Salio
781.1039

DATE: 5/8/2012

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of proposed ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board withdraw from consideration the proposed ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.

DISCUSSION

The Children's Services Network (CSN) is an official advisory board of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors that acts as an oversight body regarding issues surrounding children and families in San Luis Obispo County.

On December 13, 2011, as a step towards fulfilling the goal of the CSN's strategic plan to reduce truancy and dropout rates in San Luis Obispo County, the CSN introduced a proposed ordinance prohibiting truancy to the Board of Supervisors.

On January 17, 2012 the Board of Supervisors conducted a hearing on the adoption of adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code. The ordinance would have allowed law enforcement to detain any minor they believed should be in school. At the hearing there were a number of parents of home schooled children in opposition to this provision of the ordinance. In response to the opposition, the Board did not make a ruling on the ordinance and asked that a meeting be held with the parents to hear their concerns regarding the proposed ordinance.

On March 26, 2012, as directed by the Board of Supervisors, Chief Probation Officer Salio, Sheriff Parkinson, DJ Pittenger, School Resource Officers and the Probation Truancy Officer met with parents of home schooled youth to discuss their concerns with the proposed ordinance. The parents explained their opposition to the fact that law enforcement could detain any youth they believed to be truant. The parents were informed that the ordinance could not be narrowed to target only truant youth because, according to County Counsel, narrowing the focus would encroach into truancy statutes that exist in state law. Because the truancy ordinance could not be narrowed in focus, it was agreed that the CSN would withdraw the proposed ordinance from consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

PROBLEM

The truancy problem still exists as follows:

According to *The Silent Epidemic* report (2006), high school dropouts are much more likely than their diploma-earning peers to be unemployed, live in poverty, and access public assistance. High school dropouts, on average, earn \$9,200 less per year than high school graduates, and about \$1 million less than college graduates over a lifetime. Even if a student drops out and then later earns a diploma, he or she tends to earn less in a lifetime. While the current economy finds many without employment, the rate of unemployment amongst high school dropouts is at a much higher rate than those that completed high school. Dropouts are generally more likely to become users of government assistance rather

than those who contribute to the welfare of the community. The loss of revenue has a significant impact on state and local economies. The immediate cost to the nation for each dropout is approximately \$260,000, according to a study from Princeton University cited in *The High Cost of High School Dropouts*.

While the cost of dropping out of high school can be measured in dollars, it is also important to consider the less quantifiable costs to communities. Dropouts are more likely to end up in prison and to be on death row. They have increased levels of health issues, are more likely to be divorced, become single parents, and ultimately repeat the cycle by raising children who also drop out of school.

In 2009-10 the dropout rate in San Luis Obispo County was 9.1% while the State average was 13.3%. Also, the truancy rate in San Luis Obispo County was 33.97% while the State average is 29.81%.

SOLUTION

In 2009, the CSN commissioned a task force to study the issues surrounding truant and dropout youth and create a strategic plan that would address truancy and dropout rates in San Luis Obispo County.

Task force members included staff from the following agencies: the Department of Social Services, the County Health Agency, the Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, Lucia Mar Unified School District, Atascadero Unified School District, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, and the County Office of Education.

On February 2, 2010, the CSN presented the strategic plan to reduce truancy and dropout rates in San Luis Obispo County to the Board of Supervisors.

In order to meet the CSN Truancy and Dropout Reduction Strategic Plan's goal of having more immediate sanctions for minors who are truant, the CSN will explore the possibility of modifying state law to accomplish this result as an alternative to the proposed ordinance prohibiting truancy. This may be able to be accomplished by introducing truancy as an offense which can be heard under Welfare and Institutions Code 256 Informal Juvenile and Traffic Court. This would then allow law enforcement to cite the minor to appear in Court for habitual truancy as described in Educational Code 48262. A Hearing Officer could impose sanctions as described in Welfare and Institutions Code 258, thus obtaining the same result that the Truancy Ordinance would have produced.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The CSN is made up of the following agencies:

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County	County Probation Department
County Department of Social Services	District Attorney's Office
County Health Agency	Family Care Network Inc.
County Office of Education	First 5 Commission
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission	Latino Outreach Council
San Luis Obispo Child Abuse Prevention Council	North County Connection
Transitions-Mental Health Agency	Sheriff's Office

County Counsel reviewed the proposed ordinance and provided assistance to the CSN.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

RESULTS

This item transmits CSN's withdrawal of the proposed ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A