

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Probation		(2) MEETING DATE 1/17/2012		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Jim Salio 781.1039	
(4) SUBJECT Hearing to consider an ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code. (Item introduced December 13, 2011.)					
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve the ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to 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? N/A					
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. 40 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. __)					
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <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, Item 1</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: 1/17/2012

SUBJECT: Hearing to consider an ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to Title 7 of the San Luis Obispo County Code. (Item introduced December 13, 2011.)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the ordinance adding Chapter 7.23 (Truancy Prohibited) to the San Luis Obispo County Code.

DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

The Children Services Network (CSN) was established as an official advisory board by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors in 1992 as an oversight body regarding issues surrounding children and families in San Luis Obispo County.

The bylaws of CSN establish the following organizations as members of the CSN.

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

PROBLEM

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.

The Strategic Plan consists of twelve (12) objectives in the areas of prevention (risk and protective factors), school interventions, and community interventions. (Appendix A)

Objective #9 of the Strategic Plan is to "Reduce the frequency and number of youth out of school and unsupervised during daytime hours by implementing a countywide daytime curfew ordinance".

In order to accomplish this objective the CSN worked with County Counsel to establish a County Ordinance prohibiting truancy in the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County.

JUSTIFICATION/EXPLANATION

School Resource Officers currently do not have any sanctions available to them to use on truant minors. If they had the ability to temporarily detain minors that they believe to be truant from school and had the ability to return truant minors to school or his or her parent or legal guardian, they would be able to act in the best interest of the minor and preserve public safety.

Wanting to act in the best interest of minors and to preserve public safety, School Resources Officers have long sought the ability to temporarily detain minors that they believe to be truant from school and have the ability to return that minor to school or to his or her parent or legal guardian.

The new ordinance defines truancy as unlawful conduct.

The Truancy Prohibited ordinance establishes three distinct provisions into County Code:

1. It establishes that minors subject to compulsory education are not to be out on the street during school hours unless one of the 12 exceptions is met.
2. It establishes sanctions that may be imposed by the Juvenile Informal Traffic Court for violation of the ordinance.
3. It allows for law enforcement personnel to temporarily detain a minor who they believe to be truant from school and to return that minor to school or his or her parents or legal guardian.

Although the San Luis Obispo County Truancy Prohibited Ordinance will only be applicable to the unincorporated areas of the County, it is hoped that eventually a similar ordinance will be adopted by all of the County municipalities. However, every school district in the county has at least one school located in the unincorporated areas of the County.

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 has reviewed the Ordinance and approved it as to legal form and effect.

The County Clerk publishes notices of Public Hearing.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed changes to the ordinance will not result in additional expense to the County.

RESULTS

This Ordinance, along with the implementation of the other objectives in the Children's Services Network's strategic plan, will reduce the truancy and dropout rates in San Luis Obispo County.

Reducing truancy will contribute to a safer community and contribute to local school districts by increasing the Average Daily Attendance reimbursement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance Prohibiting Truancy
2. Summary Of Ordinance Prohibiting Truancy