



Mendocino County

Legislation Text

File #: 20-0338, Version: 1

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Health and Human Services Agency

Meeting Date: May 5, 2020

Department Contact: Tammy Moss Chandler

Phone: 463-7774

Department Contact: Jena Conner

Phone: 463-7971

Item Type: Consent Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: N/A

Agenda Title:

Adoption of Proclamation Recognizing May 2020 As National Foster Care Month in Mendocino County

Recommended Action/Motion:

Adopt Proclamation recognizing May 2020 as National Foster Care Month in Mendocino County; and authorize Chair to sign same.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

None.

Summary of Request:

In 1988, President Reagan issued the first Presidential proclamation establishing May as National Foster Care Month. Since then, May has been an annual time to recognize and acknowledge foster parents, relative caregivers, child welfare professionals and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care. This year's national theme is "Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents."

Foster care is an important temporary, last resort service for children and youth who cannot safely remain with their birth families. Mendocino County currently has over 200 foster children in care, yet there is an increasing shortage of local foster families, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic, who are willing to provide this important care for teens, children with complex behavioral and mental health needs and sibling groups. This results in foster children being placed out of county and/or separated from their siblings which creates significant barriers to successful reunification between foster children and their birth families.

Foster families play a critical role in the lives of foster children, caring for and nurturing them and helping reduce the trauma of separation, while working with birth families, Family & Children's Services (FCS) and community agencies to strengthen birth families' abilities to safely care for children and successfully reunify with them. When reunification is not possible, foster families help care for children until they are able to achieve permanency through adoption or legal guardianship.

With great thanks and appreciation, Mendocino County recognizes local foster and kinship families for opening their homes to Mendocino County foster children and youth. FCS invites everyone to recognize foster parents during the month of May 2020 which is set aside as National Foster Care Awareness Month.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Return to staff for alternate handling.

Supervisory District: All

vote requirement: Majority

Supplemental Information Available Online At: N/A

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: N/A

current f/y cost: N/A

annual recurring cost: N/A

budget clarification: N/A

budgeted in current f/y: N/A

if no, please describe:

revenue agreement: N/A

Agreement/Resolution/Ordinance Approved by County Counsel: N/A

CEO Liaison: Darcie Antle, Deputy CEO

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

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Executed By: Lindsey Dunham, Deputy Clerk I

Date: May 5, 2020

Final Status: **Adopted**

