

- I. 2000-2001 Grand Jury report on A NEW LOOK AT CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
- II. Published May 9, 2001
- III. The 2000-2001 Grand Jury initiated its investigation of Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services (CWS) (under the Department of Social Services) as a result of complaints by present and former CWS workers, particularly at the Departments Santa Maria office. Complaints involved not only upper management but the service provided to their clients, the abused and/or neglected children of Santa Barbara County. It was found that the County is in great need of an intake center for children removed from their homes as well as a group home in this County for hard to place children.
- IV. Key Grand Jury Recommendations where there is disagreement or need for follow up:

Recommendation 1: The Board of Supervisors should seriously consider establishing a Crisis Center for high-need/high risk children to provide both, emergency and transitional care for these children.

Board of Supervisors and Social Services Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented. The following is a condensed form of the response (complete response can be read under the departments responses to each finding and recommendation). The Department of Social Services is now in the process of considering a bid for a private agency to provide a "Specialized Residential Youth Program". The time-frame for implementation is difficult to predict. There is no Federal or State funding for the costs of designing a new group home.

- V. Synopsis:
 - Number of responses to recommendations – 14
 - Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent agreed with or implemented the recommendation -- 6
 - Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent disagreed with the recommendation -- 4
 - Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent requires analysis or study to finalize position -- 4