



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**WILMA CHAN**  
**President**  
**Supervisor, Third District**

June 26, 2017

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
1221 Oak Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** Enhanced partnership to create additional child care slots for homeless families

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

To strengthen partnerships with the Child Care Planning Council, Parent Voices and other child care advocates, the Board of Supervisors directs staff involved in child care programs to:

1. Develop plan for neighborhood-focused pilot projects to better utilize and increase child care slots for homeless mothers in Alameda County to the extent that existing funding is available; and
2. Seek additional funds through advocacy, philanthropy and a possible ballot measure to expand child care programs for homeless families.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Over the past 8 years, the State of California has reduced child care spending with a loss of needed subsidized slots in Alameda County. Affordable, quality child care is an essential need if families are to gain economic independence. This is especially true for homeless families who cannot seek employment if their children are not cared for during the entire day.

There are many organizations in Alameda County who have expertise on child care issues. The County has active partnerships with many of these organizations, particularly through the Child Care Planning Council and the Social Services Agency. Recognizing this special need that has been brought to the Board's attention during the last two budget cycles, it is important to create a stronger partnership to come up with creative solutions to address the child care shortage.

Given the progress made over the past year, there is an opportunity to create a neighborhood-based pilot project with an identified cohort of homeless parents. Several positive developments

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will support such a pilot project. First, the Health Care Services Agency has required that its Whole Person Care navigation centers have the capacity to support homeless families. This effort will be augmented by the recent Board action to utilize boomerang funds to increase the reach of the navigation centers. Also, the Social Services Agency recommendation that was approved this week by the Board will ensure that all county-funded shelters have family-friendly policies that will be equipped to better serve the needs of homeless families.

Lastly, there is discussion about a possible child care ballot measure in 2018 to address the issue of increasing subsidized slots and addressing wage supplements for child care providers. This would provide a possible funding stream to address the shortage.

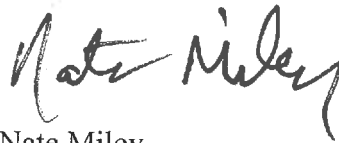
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

Sincerely,



Wilma Chan  
President  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors



Nate Miley  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors

cc: Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency  
Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency  
Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency  
Linda Gardner, Director, Housing and Community Development  
Angie Garling, Program Administrator, Early Care and Education, General Services Agency  
Janis Burger, Director, First Five Alameda County