County of Santa Barbara
Meeting of the Legislative Program Committee

MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 7, 2011

Time: 10:30AM – 12:00PM

Place: **Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Fourth Floor**
                   105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

Committee Members: Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor
                            Doreen Farr, Third District Supervisor
                            Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer
                            Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller
                            Dennis A. Marshall, County Counsel

Public Comment

Action Items:

1. **Approve minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting.**

   Motion made by Supervisor Farr, seconded by Supervisor Carbajal, to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting of the Committee. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0, with Robert Geis abstaining.

2. **Receive an update on State issues of interest to the County including State Budget, legislation and direct staff to take action as necessary.**

   Governmental Advocates, Inc. provided an update to the Committee on state issues including the State budget and proposed cuts.

   Motion made by Supervisor Farr, seconded by Dennis Marshall, to receive the update from Governmental Advocates, Inc. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0, with Robert Geis abstaining.

3. **Receive an update on federal issues of interest to the County, including County visit to Washington DC related to the County's platform, and direct staff to take action as necessary.**

   Thomas Walters of Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc. provided an update to the Committee on federal issues.

   - Independent Living Grants: Supervisor Farr asked for clarification on how HUD is defining "non-elderly" in the context of HUD/HHS awards to local governments for assisting non-elderly with disabilities to transition into independent living. The Committee directed Terri Nisich to work with Thomas Walters in order to clarify the definition.
   - SAFTEA-LU: Supervisor Carbajal commented regarding earmarks and whether SAFTEA-LU is exempt.

- Supervisor Carbajal – Legislative Trip to Washington, D.C.: Supervisor Carbajal commented on the success of his trip to Washington, D.C. In conjunction with Thomas Walters, First District staff is drafting an overview of the trip to be placed on the March 1, 2011 Administrative Agenda of the Board of Supervisors.
- Earmarks/Project Guidelines: Chandra Wallar expressed a need to look at the County's ability to influence project guidelines in light of a lack of earmarks. The Committee asked for input from Thomas Walters regarding this issue.

Motion made by Supervisor Farr, seconded by Supervisor Carbajal, to receive the update and direct Terri Nisich to work with Thomas Walters in order to clarify the definition. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. **Receive an update on status of funding and consider sending a letter to the County's federal representative for funding of *Community Action and Community Services Block Grants*.**

Terri Nisich provided an update regarding Community Action/Human Services programs provided by the Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara (CAC).

- The Committee discussed a request from Fran Forman, Executive Director of CAC, to send a letter of support for continued CSBG/Community Action funding.
- Holly Carmody of CAC stated that if CSBG/Community Action funding is cut at the federal level, services in all areas will be reduced.
- Supervisor Farr stated that funding for the Adult Aging Network goes a long way; if this funding is cut, it will not just be the immediate services that are lost.

Motion made by Supervisor Carbajal, seconded by Supervisor Farr, to send a letter of support to the President of the United States and to the County's Congressional Representatives, with Terri Nisich and Holly Carmody of CAC drafting the letter of support. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

5. **Consider whether to take a position on federal legislation:**

A. **H.R. 32**, *the Homeless Children and Youth Act*, that expands HUD definition of homeless so that homeless children and youth in involuntary and unstable living arrangements can access housing support services from which they are currently barred. Recommendation to support.

B. **H.R. 34**, *the Family Self Sufficiency Act of 2011*, which improves the accessibility of coordinators within FSS programs, offered in connection with HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Terri Nisich provided a report on H.R. 32 and H.R. 34.

- H.R. 32:

  Motion made by Supervisor Farr, seconded by Dennis Marshall, to amend the definition and send a letter of support to the County's delegation. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

- H.R. 34:
  - Supervisor Farr asked staff what the administrative fee would be. David Matson, Interim Director of Housing and Community Development, answered that the fee would be stated in the guidelines once the legislation goes through.
  - Public Comment: Judy Ishkanian asked whether HUD funding will be reduced. The Committee asked Thomas Walters to investigate.
  - The Committee directed Terri Nisich to collaborate with Thomas Walters to get more details on the subject before drafting a letter.

  Motion made by Supervisor Farr, seconded by Supervisor Carbajal, that the Committee send a letter of support to the delegation once Terri Nisich has collaborated with Thomas Walters to gather more information on the subject. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Motion made by Chandra Waller, seconded by Supervisor Farr, to adjourn the February 7, 2011 meeting of the Legislative Program Committee. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Note: ***Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011 from 10:30AM – 12:00PM.***