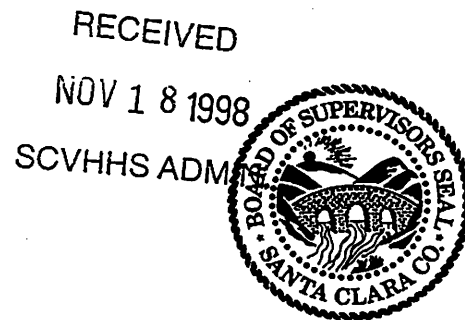


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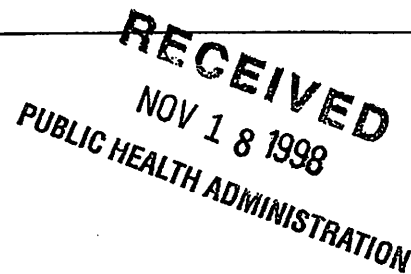
Office of the Board of Supervisors

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James T. Beall, Jr.
Supervisor, Fourth District

MEMORANDUM



DATE: November 16, 1998

TO: Bob Sillen, Executive Director, SCVHHS
Dr. Guadalupe Olivas, Director, Public Health

FROM: Jim Beall, Supervisor, District 4 *Jim Beall*

SUBJECT: Violence Prevention Council (VPC) Action Plan

First, I again want to commend the Public Health Department and the community on an exceptional Action Plan. In analyzing all the excellent recommendations such as the Public Awareness & Education recommendations, the Community Based Initiatives, Reducing/Preventing Firearm Related Injuries & Death and Promoting Violence Free Relationships, I would like to ask staff to do the following:

In my October 27th opening remarks I mentioned a county employee's family whose teenager was accidentally shot in the head by a friend. As a result of this tragic incident, the family created the idea of Teens Against Guns or TAG, a group that would involve youth in an effort to raise awareness through community education about the dangers of mixing guns and youth. I would like staff to explore this idea further with the family, the Human Relations Commission, Schools, Park & Recreation Departments and other youth-serving organizations and bring back a proposal on a program that could involve youth and fulfill the recommendations in the VPC Action Plan that relate to youth, firearms, public awareness and education and community based initiatives.

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Recently, a child abuse case was brought to my attention that highlights an issue regarding child abuse. Our Child Death Review Team caught this case of child abuse where the child had been seen by twenty (20) doctors and not one doctor detected child abuse. It was suggested that some child abuse detection training be performed for doctors, nurses and other healthcare employees in our county. It was also recommended that a more systematic way of identifying children at risk of abuse be considered such as a county-wide computer database of children's medical records that healthcare professionals can access when they suspect child abuse. I would like staff to explore this concept further with the Child Death Review Committee, the Violence Intervention Program at VMC, the D.A.'s Office, Stanford Children's Hospital and the Good Samaritan Foundation and bring back a plan to address the critical issue of child abuse. This effort would move forward the education and training portion of the Promoting Violence Free Relationships Policy recommendations.

Last, a member of my staff recently met with a child health services coordinator for SCVHHS, and several staff from Choices for Children, a childcare provider resource and referral services organization in Campbell. This group is proposing creating a community collaboration to develop an anti-violence curriculum and training program for preschoolers, their childcare providers and their parents. I would also ask staff to please investigate this concept further with Choices for Children, Public Health, Health Realization and the Good Samaritan Foundation and come back to the Board with a proposal outlining a curriculum and training program. This proposal would help in the Parent Education portion of the Promoting Violence Free Relationships Policy Recommendations.

I believe these are worthy ideas which, if implemented, will fulfill a number of the proposed Action Plan recommendations.

c: Phyllis Perez, Clerk of the Board
Richard Wittenberg, County Executive
Board of Supervisors

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