

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Board of Supervisors

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James T. Beall, Jr.
Supervisor Fourth District

May 24, 2006

Dear Task Force Member,

Thank you for your participation on the Blue Ribbon Foster Youth Employment Task Force. We truly appreciate your dedication to serving our foster youth. The Task Force provided strategic guiding principles that will be incorporated into the design and implementation of the new Employment Program for emancipating foster youth.

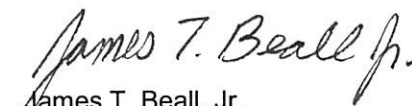
Over the next three months, the Department of Families and Children Services (DFCS) will review the information provided by the Task Force and integrate it into their current efforts. The Task Force's guiding principles will serve as the foundation to the design, creation and implementation of a new employment program whose aim is to provide employment for the most inclusive range of foster youth. DFCS will present the Employment Implementation Plan to the Children Seniors and Families Committee on August 16, 2006, 10am in the Board Chambers located at 70 West Hedding Street.


We strongly believe that collaborating with community partners is a critical component to a successful employment program. Every Task Force member was invited to participate because they have unique ideas and expertise that will enable the County to improve employment services for foster youth. All of us know a child who could have received better services. We all have ideas on how we can improve the process.

It is so important that we take every opportunity to support our emancipating foster youth in their transition to independence. It is also essential that we consistently encourage our young people to envision a healthy, fulfilling and productive future. In Santa Clara County, nearly 130 foster youth a year emancipate. Through our continued collaborative efforts, we are confident that Santa Clara County will build a strong safety net for foster youth aging out of the system. Any new program must empower youth by providing them with employment and educational opportunities so they can experience successful life outcomes.

Again, thank you for your expertise and assistance. As the Chair of the Board's Children, Seniors & Families Committee, I look forward to the development and implementation of a new employment program that effectively serves all our foster youths.

Sincerely,


James T. Beall, Jr.
County Supervisor- District 4


Sandra Nathan
Deputy County Executive

