



*County of Santa Barbara*  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**Kathy M. Gallagher**  
Director

**Received**

**MAY 11 2010**

Santa Barbara  
Grand Jury

May 7, 2010


Honorable Arthur Garcia  
Presiding Judge  
312 C East Cook St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Honorable Judge Garcia:

In accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, attached please find the response from the Department of Social Services to the report of the Grand Jury, "Under the Radar and Under the Gun, Budget Cuts Threaten the Frail Elderly and the Disabled of all Ages".

The work and insights of the Grand Jury are acknowledged and much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kathy M. Gallagher, Director

cc: Fletcher Phillips, Foreman of the Grand Jury

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**Terrie Concellos, M.B.A., C.P.A.**  
Deputy Director  
Administrative Functions

**Delfino Neira, M.A.**  
Deputy Director  
Social Services Programs

**Ken D. Jensen, Psy. D.**  
Deputy Director  
Client Services & Benefits

**Department of Social Services  
Response to Findings**

**“Under the Radar and Under the Gun”  
“Budget Cuts Threaten the Frail Elderly and the Disabled of all Ages”**

*Finding 1*

In-Home Supportive Services is dependent on federal, state, and county sources.

Response: The Department of Social Services agrees that the In-Home Supportive Services Program is funded by a melding of County General Fund, and Federal and State funds. These funds are the backbone of the safety net for the elderly and disabled of our community.

*Finding 2*

In July, 2009, the California Legislature enacted ABX4 4, which reduced funding for In-Home Supportive Services programs for fiscal year 2009-10

Response: The Department of Social Services agrees that ABX4 4 reduced funding for the IHSS program.

*Finding 3*

A federal district court judge has stayed the implementation of ABX 4 4. The state has appealed the injunction to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This appeal is pending at this time

Response: The Department agrees with this finding.

*Finding 4*

If ABX4 4 is implemented, Santa Barbara County would lose approximately \$2.69 million, per Department of Social Services, from the funding for In-Home Support Services programs, resulting in reduction or elimination of such services to approximately 1,200 frail elderly and disabled of all ages.

Response: The Department of Social Services generally agrees with this finding. While the exact reductions are difficult to estimate at this time due to the pending lawsuit and uncertainties about the State budget, a significant number of IHSS recipients can expect to see a reduction in service or an elimination of their services if the State of California were to prevail in their legal appeal to the Federal court.

Finding 5

Approximately 1,200 people currently receiving In-Home Support Services benefits will experience a reduction or complete loss of service, some requiring institutionalization, if the budget cuts are implemented.

Response: The Department of Social Services agrees with this finding. An exact number of recipients who will either see a reduction or elimination of service cannot be determined at this time, the department estimates that approximately 1,200 clients will be affected.

Finding 6

Currently, there is a serious shortage of both skilled nursing homes and alternative beds for In-Home Supportive Services recipients in Santa Barbara County.

Response: The Department of Social Services agrees with this finding. The current service delivery model in the State of California to support low-income frail elderly and disabled individuals is the IHSS program which provides in-home caregiver support for only the necessary hours, rather than the more expensive institutional 24-hour care. This model has been in place for forty years. As a consequence, there are fewer skilled nursing facilities, with fewer available beds, than is needed to absorb all of the former IHSS recipients around the State who will no longer be able to remain independent in their own homes.

Finding 7

If the 2010-11 budget proposal is enacted even more of the 3,000 current recipients of In-Home Supportive Services benefits will lose all services and could need institutionalization.

Response: The Department of Social Services agrees with this finding. The Governor's current budget proposal includes the elimination of the In-Home Supportive Services program.