County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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JANET K. BEAUTZ	ELLEN PIRIE	MARDI WORMHOUDT	TONY CAMPOS	MARK W. STONE
FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 6/20/06

June 12, 2006

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK POSITION ON CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS

Dear Members of the Board:

In May of 2005, the Santa Cruz County Children's Network voted to support the opinion of the California Attorney General which maintained confidential medical services for adolescents 12 years old and older. The Children's Network now seeks approval of this position statement by the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of dissemination to the public.

As outlined in the attached request from the Children's Network, I recommend that the Board approve the following position statement for the Network to disseminate to the public:

1. The Santa Cruz County Children's Network supports the California Attorney General's opinion that:

   - A school district may not require that a student obtain written parental consent prior to releasing the student from school to receive confidential services; and

   - A school district may not adopt a policy pursuant to which the district will notify a parent when a student leaves school to obtain confidential medical services.

2. The Children's Network recommends that all persons in educational institutions, governmental organizations, law enforcement, and community based organizations in

Santa Cruz County protect this important right for our youth.

Sincerely,

MARK W. STONE, Supervisor
Fifth District

MWS :**pmp**
Attachment

cc: Santa Cruz County Children's Network

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Santa Cruz County Children's Network
P.O. Box 1458 Capitola CA 95010

0197

June 12,2006

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Confidential Medical Services for Adolescents

Dear Members of the Board:

1. In May of 2005, The Santa Cruz County Children's Network voted to support the opinion of the California Attorney General to maintain Confidential Medical Services for Adolescents 12 years and older.

2. The Santa Cruz County Children's Network seeks the approval of their position statement from the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of dissemination to the public.

Background

The Santa Cruz County Children's Network is an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors. It is comprised of public and non-profit organizations in the community which serve children. The Network exists to improve opportunities for young people and their families through planning and delivery of coordinated services in the community. The Network provides annual reports to the Board on its meetings, presentations and other various projects.

It is the Network's intent to encourage the development of a comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services to children and youth. Network members recognize the special needs of adolescents who may seek medical care and treatment in this comprehensive system for sensitive, confidential medical services. These services, under California law, may be obtained by minors ages 12 and over without parental consent or notification.

California law explicitly authorizes minors to consent to health care related to sexual activity, substance abuse and mental health care.[1] This law reflects a recognition that while parental involvement is desirable, many minors will not seek these sensitive services that they need if they, or anybody else, have to tell their parents. Laws protect the minor's rights to confidentiality for these sensitive services, and the minor must give specific consent for release of this information to anyone, including parents.[2]

The Santa Cruz County Children's Network RECOMMENDS that your Board approve the following position statement for the Network to disseminate to the public:

1. The Santa Cruz County Children's Network supports California's Attorney General opinion that:
   - A school district may not require that a student obtain written parental consent prior to releasing the student from school to receive confidential services, and
   - A school district may not adopt a policy pursuant to which the district will notify a parent when a student leaves school to obtain confidential medical services.

2. The Children's Network recommends that all persons in educational institutions, governmental organizations, law enforcement, and community based organizations in Santa Cruz County protect this important right for our youth.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Mays, Ed. D.
Chair. Santa Cruz County Children's Network
Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District

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[1] California Family Code: Sec 6920-6929; Health & Safety Code: Sec 121020

[2] Health & Safety Code: Sec 123115, subd (a)(1); Civil Code: Sec 56.11 subd (c)