

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015- \_\_\_\_\_**

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**A RESOLUTION RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION,  
AFFIRMING COMMITMENT AND PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR HIGH-QUALITY  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SANTA FE COUNTY CHILDREN AGES  
PRENATAL THROUGH FIVE AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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**WHEREAS**, all Santa Fe County children, regardless of income, race or ethnicity, should have the opportunity to thrive and enter school ready to learn;

**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County is home to 9,900 children under the age of six, over half of whom reside in low income households, and 19 percent of whom live in poverty;

**WHEREAS**, research shows that early prenatal care, pediatric health care, and high quality early childhood care and education are cost-effective ways to promote equal opportunities for disadvantaged children and to improve educational outcomes, as well as to reduce the need for expensive later interventions and the public costs of unemployment, incarceration and social welfare programs;

**WHEREAS**, studies show that 85 percent of brain development occurs in the first five years of life, and that providing high-quality early childhood programs to children and their families prepares children to thrive in school and in life and is much less costly than later interventions;

**WHEREAS**, research shows that when families have more books at home, kindergartners arrive at school with higher early language scores;

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated that each dollar invested in early childhood care and education generates between seven and ten dollars in productivity gains and cost savings to society over the lifetime of a child;

**WHEREAS**, public and private investments in early childhood care and education benefit the business community by fostering the growth of local small businesses, many of which are women- and minority-owned; by making it possible for the parents of young children to work and further their education; and by improving educational outcomes, and thus the future workforce readiness, of children;

**WHEREAS**, to make meaningful and lasting improvements in outcomes for children and families, a large, sustained, and reliable investment in early childhood services is necessary;

**WHEREAS**, local funding and oversight of early childhood programs maximizes the extent to which those programs reflect community values and addresses the unique needs of community residents and institutions;

**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County has taken an active and strategic role in setting priorities and funding programs for young children and their families;

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2014, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners approved the County Health Action Plan recommended by the Santa Fe County Health Policy and Planning Commission, entitled *Santa Fe County Health Action Plan FY 2015-2017*;

**WHEREAS**, the *County Health Action Plan* contains priorities targeted to early childhood, including “Reduce low birth weight,” and establishes as a performance measure for the County the funding and support for programs and services that address low birth weight, as well as public awareness of the value and availability of prenatal care services;

**WHEREAS**, the *County Health Action Plan* establishes as a performance measure for the County the funding of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for pregnant women who use opiates;

**WHEREAS**, the *County Health Action Plan*, as part of its priority goal to “Increase consumption of healthy food,” supports promoting the benefits of breastfeeding to pregnant women, as well as increasing public awareness of food assistance programs that benefit children and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, in pursuance of the priorities of the *County Health Action Plan*, Santa Fe County has spearheaded and funded the following early childhood programs and services:

1. A low birth weight prevention initiative was implemented, in the amount of \$250,000, beginning in FY 2015, to reduce the risks associated with low birth weight, especially among women more likely to deliver low birth weight babies;
2. A community-based Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for pregnant women in Santa Fe County who use opiates, was implemented in the amount of \$158,000, that began in FY 2015 and has resulted so far in over 30 babies born healthy;
3. Payment of the costs of prenatal care for medically indigent women who are not eligible for Medicaid;
4. Imagination Library, a program delivering free books, in English and Spanish, to children from birth to age five, funded in the amount of \$60,000, was implemented which has already delivered free books to over 700 children, who will continue to receive new books every month;
5. The production each year of the *Resource Directory for Families with Young Children*, in English and Spanish, which provides essential information for new parents and the

community at large about programs and services related to childhood health and well-being, and which is used by thousands of families, as well as providers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County:

1. That Santa Fe County reaffirms its commitment to the early childhood-related priorities in the *County Health Action Plan* and the programs and services that the County has spearheaded, as outlined above.
2. That Santa Fe County encourages community efforts to create public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and care, and encourages new and expanded high-quality programs that support the health, learning and stability of young children and their families throughout Santa Fe County.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2015

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Anaya, Chair

**Attest:**

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Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

**Approved as to Form:**

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Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney