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August 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

Re: Orange County Grand Jury Report
"What Is Orange County Doing About Teenage Pregnancies?"

As requested in a letter from Ann Avery Andres, foreman, Orange County Grand Jury, dated May 23, 2008, and in accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933-05, enclosed please find the Orange County Superintendent of Schools' response to findings F-1 and F-2, and response to recommendations R-1 and R-2 regarding the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled "What is Orange County Doing About Teenage Pregnancies?"

Also, we are sending an electronic copy to the Orange County Grand Jury by separate cover.

Sincerely,

William M. Habermehl
County Superintendent of Schools

WHM:EC:bz

Enclosure



WILLIAM M. HABERMEHL
County Superintendent of Schools

ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

What is Orange County Doing About Teenage Pregnancies?

Response Summary from the Orange County Superintendent of Schools

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933.05(a) and (b), a response is required from the Orange County Superintendent of Schools to Findings F-1 and F-2, and Recommendations R-1 and R-2 of the Orange County Grand Jury report titled **“What is Orange County Doing About Teenage Pregnancies?”**

Finding F-9

The Cal-SAFE program which is offered by some local high school districts, is a very effective program that assists students who are pregnant and parenting. However, a reduction in funding for existing high school districts with Cal-SAFE programs is being threatened and there is no new funding for additional programs.

The Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of Schools (OCDE/SOS) agrees with Finding F-1 that the Cal-SAFE programs offered by some local high school districts are a very effective program that assists students who are pregnant and parenting. Cal-SAFE programs provide excellent educational options to meet the varied needs of our diverse student population who may be pregnant or parenting. Funding is uncertain until the 2008/2009 budget is enacted.

Finding F-2

Programs available to pregnant and parenting youth are currently coordinated by the Health Care Agency. However, most programs are not widely known or utilized by Orange County teenagers and/or their parents.

The Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of Schools has identified programs available to pregnant and parenting youth which are currently coordinated by both the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) as well as community based organizations. While service providers in schools and through community organizations, inform pregnant and parenting youth of resources to meet their needs, additional resources would be helpful.

Recommendation R - 1

That the Orange County Health Care agency in connection with the Orange County Superintendent of Schools form and support a program that incorporates some of the integral parts of the Cal-SAFE program to continue assisting pregnant and parenting teens.

The Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of Schools will continue to provide assistance, as legally and fiscally appropriate, to support local school districts in providing

educational support services to pregnant and parenting teens. The OCDE/SOS will coordinate these programs with the OCHCA as appropriate.

Recommendation R- 2

That the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Orange county Superintendent of Schools coordinate and publicize programs about pregnancy and parenting to high school students and their parents.

The Orange County Department of Education/Superintendent of Schools will work with the Orange County Health Care Agency to coordinate and publicize programs about pregnancy and parenting to high school students and their parents.