



Ask the CEO



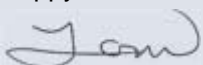
County Family,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope each of you and your families enjoyed the Holiday Season and the transition into 2006. For me it was an excellent transition from a successful 2005 to the hopes, dreams and goals for all of us for 2006 – deflated only by the terrible and unjust outcome of the National Championship game of January 4th. I've been intending to call our most dedicated USC fan - former SSA Director Angelo Doti - but I just haven't had the courage.

We have some exciting challenges for departments in 2006 that are included in the Strategic Financial Plan approved by the Board in December. I do encourage all of you to follow Board Agendas and actions since that policy direction is our roadmap to action items. Three major items up right away are the review of the Dana Point Environmental Impact Report, consideration of the next phase of the HCA Cerner project and Managed Retirement planning which has accelerated in the last few months.

In all of our challenges, Board direction and the work of each our 17,000 plus employees are the key to success. Thanks for your commitment to excellence!

Happy New Year,



Baby Think It Over

Ever wanted to take a trial run at parenthood before taking the big step? Probation's **Baby Think It Over** program is doing just that for both teenaged girls and boys at their Youth Guidance Center (YGC) in Santa Ana. Most of the teens are incarcerated at YGC because of substance abuse problems.

The innovative program uses a lifelike, life-sized baby doll with realistic computerized responses. It is anatomically correct and available in both sexes and five different ethnicities. An internal computer simulates an infant crying at realistic, random intervals 24 hours a day. Intervals can be adjusted from 15 minutes to 6 hours for a normal, cranky, or particularly easy to care for baby.

The "parent" is given a non-transferable key attached to a hospital bracelet on his or her wrist that must be inserted in the Baby for a specific length of time to simulate feeding, bathing, diaper-changing and comforting. Care sessions last from 5 to 35 minutes. If the Baby has been properly cared for, it will coo to signal the end of the session. If it is neglected (allowed to cry for more than one minute) or handled roughly (dropped, thrown or struck), tamper-proof

indicators on the computer will alert the instructor. A drug-affected model, smaller in size, has the additional feature of simulating tremors due to withdrawal from a mother's drug addiction during pregnancy.

The responses are programmed into the baby's activities that allow teens to experience some of the real-life demands of infant care. Taking care of these babies



allows adolescents to gain a better appreciation of the time-consuming responsibilities involved with parenthood.

"The **Baby Think It Over** program has been effective, realistic and an eye opening lesson for both our girls and boys at the Youth Guidance Center," said Chief Probation Officer Colleene Preciado. "They have come to realize

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that they have a lot more growing and maturing to do before becoming a parent. We want to teach teenagers the consequences of becoming a parent and the lack of education at such an early age.”

The ***Baby Think It Over*** program for girls at YGC has been in operation since October 2001. There are 25 girls and 10 Babies in the girl’s unit. Since the program’s inception, approximately 96 girls have had the Baby Think It Over experience. The girls are totally responsible for their Babies for a two-week period. They are required to sleep, eat, and even go to school with their Babies. Every attempt by staff is to make the experience as realistic as possible. The girls are also required to interview for babysitters and earn work points to pay their babysitters.

Interestingly, staff has seen an unexpected effect caused by the Babies on mothers. The simulators have the power to actually accelerate the minor’s own drug program. The girls can become extremely irritable and their coping skills are stretched very thin and tested. Typically the sleeplessness caused by caring for an infant full-time is the cause. The result, however, is that they come to realize that having a baby is not as fun or cute as they once believed. The "experience" becomes very overwhelming for the girls and they begin to realize that they cannot juggle their own lives let alone the tiny life of a baby that is totally reliant on others for its care. Many girls also realize that they have a lot of growing and maturing to do before they can become a mother.



Pregnancy Profile - YGC also has the Pregnancy Profile also known as the Empathy Belt. Girls can wear the Pregnancy Profile that simulates being in the third trimester of pregnancy. It is a wearable vest-like garment that replicates the visual appearance and actual feel of pregnancy. It simulates 25 pounds of weight gain, fetal movements, elevated body temperature, bladder pressure, and pregnancy-like symptoms.

The program for boys has been going for nearly two years. The program in the male units is called "The Weekend Father" program. There are 100 boys and 12 Babies in the boys' unit. The impact on the males is different than the girls. The experience brings out personal issues from their past with the males. They

tend to recall their own family issues and it is a real-life experience for those males who already have children of their own. Some of the boys become very irritable and their coping skills are stretched very thin. They realize that being totally responsible for a baby is not what they thought. Many of the boys think being a father would be fun or cute but they soon realize how much work is involved in being a good parent. The ***Baby Think It Over*** experience becomes very overwhelming for most of the boys and, like the girls, they start to realize that they find it hard to juggle issues in their own lives and having a baby to be responsible for in addition to their own lives is unmanageable. Also like similar to the girls, the boys learn that they have a lot of growing and maturing to do before they can be a good parent.

Helping young people avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections is a challenge that faces communities around the country and the world. Indeed, children having children is a problem with consequences for the young people themselves, for their families, and for society. Young people with children often have sharply reduced education and employment opportunities and a poorer quality of life than if they had not become parents at such a young age. Taking care of these babies allows adolescents to gain a better appreciation of the time-consuming responsibilities involved with parenthood. Many teens going through the ***Baby Think It Over*** program come to realize that they are not yet ready to take on the pressures and responsibilities that come with being a parent.

Fourth Session of Leadership Academy Holds Commencement Ceremony

The fourth session participants of the Orange County Leadership Academy will receive their hard-earned certificates on Jan. 27 at Chapman University.

The graduate group is composed of 31 employees from agencies and departments across the County. The completion of the managerial development program has set the stage for its participants to lead their departments in the County's consistent management philosophy.

"The Academy teaches that leadership is not a way of doing, but a way of being," says RDMD Design Manager Scott Thomas. "In other words, one of our most important roles as leaders is to help others be the best they can be."

The primary purpose of the program is to distinguish between managing and becoming a true leader. Participants work to achieve this goal through the program's interactive group discussions and hands-on

exercises that help transform the theory into daily reality.

"The Academy delves into many different facets of leadership and draws from experiences of truly inspirational leaders," says Child Support Services Program Manager Jill Howery. "I enjoyed the connection I made with other managers and new insights about leadership that I hope to build upon to better serve the people in my professional as well as my personal life."

OC Leadership Academy IV Graduates

Elva Gonzalez
Assessor

Joe D'Agostino
District Attorney

Kathy Goto
Probation

Frank Davies
Auditor-Controller

Daniel J. Davis
Health Care Agency

Connie Muckenthaler
Probation

Mary Fitzgerald
Auditor-Controller

Lydia Mikhail
Health Care Agency

Becky Juliano
Public Defender

James Gorzo
Child Support Services

Janine Boiarsky
Housing & Community Services Department

Scott Thomas
Resources & Development Management Department

Jill Howery
Child Support Services

Margaret Briggs
Human Resources

Carlos Bustamante
Resources & Development Management Department

Robin Stieler
Clerk of the Board

Diane Greek
Human Resources

Maritza Rodriguez-Farr
Social Services Agency

Susie Sullivan
Clerk-Recorder

Bob Leys
Human Resources

Erik Fair
Social Services Agency

Debra Armijo
County Counsel

Suzanne McClanahan
Integrated Waste Management Department

Tim Board
Sheriff-Coroner

Shunna Austin
CEO/Budget

Kari Rigoni
John Wayne Airport

Jacque Berndt
Sheriff-Coroner

Justin McCusker
CEO/Legislative Affairs

Steve Siemion
Public Library

Clarissa Adriano-Ceres
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Help Replace Children's Books

Donate NOW through 1/31/06

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the roof of the Children's section at the Live Oak Library in the greater New Orleans area was ripped off causing extensive damage to the branch library. All of the children's books in the library, some 12,000 volumes, were completely destroyed.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Orange County Public Library are trying to help the Live Oak Library return to service and again provide children and local residents with the vital resources libraries offer. For a ten-dollar donation, you can put a book back on the shelf. More information about donating is available at

<http://www.ocpl.org/liveoak.asp>.

Bond Buyer Award



Supervisor Jim Silva (left) and Tom Beckett, Manager of Public Finance (center) receive an award from Rich Saskal of The Bond Buyer. The award recognized the County for innovation and uniqueness of the use of public financing to help the recovery from the bankruptcy.

Clean and Green Campaign Wins Award

The way the Health Care Agency's Environmental Health deals with boaters' engine leaks and spillage during oil changes in Dana Point Harbor is innovative and it is also award-winning. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) presented Orange County with an award of merit for the environmental campaign at its recent meeting.

The challenge for Environmental Health was to provide boaters with an effective way to dispose of oil contamination commonly found in the bottoms of their crafts. In response, the Orange County Health Care Agency

began offering a free exchange program for bilge pads — large, absorbent pads boaters use to absorb leaking oil. Paid for through grants and partnerships, the pads were given away free to boaters at local boating events and at marinas, and new drop-off containers for used bilge pads were installed at the Dana Point marina. Once the exchange program was in place, an educational and promotional campaign — Got a Boat, Use a Pad — was launched to ensure that boaters took advantage of the program. The campaign was a tremendous success. In six months, nine drums of used pads were collected and

disposed of, accounting for 1,800 soiled pads. In 2004, approximately 500 gallons of oily water was successfully diverted from ocean recreational waters. A duplicate campaign is now under way at Newport Harbor.

CSAC received a record number of entries for this year's competition, which spotlights the most innovative programs and services in county government. This year they received 234 entries from 36 counties.

Holiday Program Coordinators



Mona Gustafson (third from left) of Social Services Agency coordinates Operation Santa Claus with help from volunteers and staff support. Operation Santa Claus gave out 58,000 toys from Nov. 15 - Dec. 23.



Celia Echevarria (second from right) of Social Services Agency oversees Senior Santa with assistance from support staff and volunteers. Senior Santa served approximately 1,600 elderly individuals.



Amber Hannigan (left) and Sylvia Valles (right) of Health Care Agency plan gift certificate distribution for Holiday Hope. Holiday Hope made the holidays merrier for 1,429 individuals.



Lois McKoon of Probation coordinates Giving From the Heart. Giving From the Heart served more than 1,000 individuals over the holidays.

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.



30 Years

Sara Hardiman
Probation

Sally Ledesma
Probation

Kirk Antes
Sheriff-Coroner

Ellen Lacey
Social Services Agency

25 Years

Juliana Chen
Assessor

Jodie Dirden
Auditor-Controller

Nancy Nguyen
Auditor-Controller

Elizabeth Jewell
Auditor-Controller

Vinh Hong
District Attorney

Donna Long
Child Support Services

Thanh-Minh Luyen
Health Care Agency

William Sorenson
Sheriff-Coroner

John Vulpo
Probation

Calvin Lu
Sheriff-Coroner

Norma Cortez
Sheriff-Coroner

Richard Fassel
Sheriff-Coroner

Brian Wilkerson
Sheriff-Coroner

Lynn Ly
Social Services Agency

Hermila Rasmussen
Social Services Agency

Lisa Vo
Social Service Agency

Dan Fleming
Social Service Agency

Loan Phan
Social Services Agency

Thuy Le
Social Services Agency

Tinh Tran
Social Services Agency

Frank Perez
Social Services Agency

Rosalynn Lai
Social Services Agency

Phu Le
Social Services Agency

Jane Giang Doan
Social Services Agency

Thu-Ha Tran-Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Tony Chacon
Resources & Development
Management Department

Guadalupe Contreras
Integrated Waste
Mangement Department

Suzanne McClanahan
Integrated Waste
Mangement Department

Gregory Cunningham
Resources & Development
Management Department

