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City Officials Announce New Measures to Combat Child Abuse New Report Shows Sharp Increase in Adult Probation for Child Abuse Cases

In advance of yesterday's special Joint Meeting of the Police Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women, the San Francisco Family Violence Council released the *2011 Comprehensive Report on Family Violence in San Francisco* which details the number of client, calls, and cases related to child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse, covering the period July 2010 - June 2011. This 3rd annual report shows a 44% increase in the number of Adult Probation General Supervision cases and a 4% increase in the number of cases received by the District Attorney related to child abuse.

The 2011 report captures, for the first time, data on child abuse calls to the 911 Emergency Call Center. This is the direct result of new call codes that the Department of Emergency Management introduced in 2010 to better capture types of family violence that were being reported per a recommendation by the Family Violence Council.

In addition, Mayor Edwin Lee announced the implementation of the Child Abuse Intervention Program (CAIP), a comprehensive 52-week treatment program for convicted child abusers placed on probation. Housed under the Department of Health's Community Behavioral Health Services Unit, the program, certified by the Adult Probation Department, complies with mandatory California Penal Code requirements. The extensive curriculum, delivered by licensed clinicians, covers a wide range of topics from anger to stress management to substance abuse. San Francisco is only the third county in the state to implement such programming.

"With our improved data gathering methods and the Child Abuse Intervention Program, we are working to change the attitudes and behaviors that lead to the maltreatment of children, our most vulnerable residents," said Mayor Lee. "This program is the result of our departments, agencies and community stakeholders working together to consolidate services and offer a comprehensive counseling curriculum to treat those who should be protecting our youth. Thank you to Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still and Director of the Public Health Department Barbara Garcia for leading this effort."

Family Violence Council Chairs Kathy Baxter, Director of the Child Abuse Council at the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Beverly Upton, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Consortium, and Talitha Guinn, Director of Elder Abuse Prevention at the Institute on Aging released a joint statement: "By bringing the right stakeholders together, we crafted this new program to become one of a handful of counties statewide that is in compliance with state law. The message is this: San Francisco treats the problem of child abuse with the utmost seriousness."

Emily Murase, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women which convenes the quarterly meetings of the Council, added, “The Family Violence Council demonstrates the power of collaboration to address, head on, the seemingly intractable problems of child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. Together, we are pioneering new approaches to old problems.”

The *2011 Comprehensive Report on Family Violence* is available at the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women website: www.sfgov.org/dosw.

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