

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 4, 2003

EBT PROPOSAL

Later this year, Los Angeles County will begin implementing the new Statewide Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to issue Food Stamps. EBT replaces actual Food Stamps with a plastic card for use at thousands of sites throughout the County that would accept the card for food purchases, much like a debit card. This would represent a dramatic change in the way that Food Stamps recipients in Los Angeles County receive and utilize the benefits, to which they are entitled.

The County also has the option to utilize EBT for issuing cash benefits for CalWORKs, General Relief, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAP) and Refugee participants. Currently, the Department of Public Social Services is exploring the viability of expanding EBT use for this purpose and will give recommendations to the Board within the next 60 days.

Continental Currency Services, in consultation with Nix Check Cashing, has developed an alternative method to EBT for issuing cash benefits. Their proposal

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suggests cost-savings without loss of service or decreased access. These companies operate check-cashing sites that distribute cash benefits and food stamps, and both have a long-standing relationship with Los Angeles County and a working knowledge of the participants we serve.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board instruct the Director of Public Social Services to examine the alternate proposal by Continental Currency Services and conduct a cost-benefit analysis and report back to the Board within 30 days with their findings and recommendations.

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