

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

Item 5

From: Sylvia Drew Ivie

Re: Shaken Baby Safe Sleeping Motion Talking Points

Date: August 11, 2011 _____

Over 70 infant deaths from unsafe sleeping arrangements have occurred in Los Angeles County for each of the last three years according to ICAN data. If families only knew their ABC's, that infants should sleep Alone, on their Backs, and in a Crib or other close but separate safe place, we could prevent so many tragedies.

In the same way, if parents understood that when they shake a baby in anger who will not stop crying that they risk destroying the child's brain and preventing his or her brain from receiving enough oxygen. Half of the children affected by being violently shaken this way die. Survivors may require lifelong medical care for conditions such as partial or total blindness, hearing loss, developmental delays, learning problems or mental retardation.

Today we propose to have the CEO and the Department of Health plan a pilot study of prevention of deaths and injuries from unsafe sleeping and shaken baby syndrome at Harbor- UCLA.

By training nurses and social workers in the hospital setting to train new parents about the hazards in shaking a baby and the dangers *in* placing children in unsafe sleeping environments, we hope to prevent deaths and

injuries, and replicate successful programs in Baltimore which demonstrated dramatic change in prior numbers.

The Coroner would be asked to collect data on the number of infant deaths for ages one year and younger, born at Harbor-UCLA that might be related to unsafe sleeping or shaking so that the efficacy of the pilot can be measured.

This program could be included as a component of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) safety standards. Each hospital has an assigned JCAHO coordinator, whose participation would be critical to the success of this pilot.

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center is an ideal location for the pilot project given the strength of its pediatric department and training program and its already active involvement with the ICAN Safe Sleeping Taskforce. Approximately 900 live births occurred at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center during the last fiscal year.