



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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March 7, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains a change in County position on legislation related to public health laboratories; a report on hearings conducted by the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review on the Governor's FY 2012-13 Proposed Budget; and an overview of legislation of County interest related to foster care.

Change in County Position on Legislation

County-opposed SB 594 (Wolk), which would have required all laboratory services necessary for local public health departments to be provided by a city or county's public health laboratory, expanded the types of services that must be performed by a city or county-operated public laboratory, and required the State Department of Public Health to develop and administer written examinations to certify public health microbiologists, was amended on March 1, 2012 to delete these provisions. As amended, SB 594 currently relates to the placement of electric meters. Therefore, **the Sacramento advocates will remove County-opposition to SB 594 and take no position on this measure.**

Hearings on the Governor's CalWORKs Budget Proposal

On February 29, 2012, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services convened to review the Governor's FY 2012-13 CalWORKs budget proposals.

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The Director of the California Department of Social Services provided an overview of the proposed changes to the CalWORKs Program which would reduce funding by a net \$946.2 million statewide by enacting complex changes that include: 1) restructuring the program into two components, CalWORKs Basic and CalWORKs Plus; 2) retroactive eligibility determinations; 3) time-limit clock stopper and sanction changes; and 4) implementing a 27.0 percent reduction to child-only grants, among other key changes.

Among the panelists testifying at the hearing, Phil Ansell, Chief Deputy with the Department of Public Social Services, provided information on the County's CalWORKs Program and reported on the increased rate of homelessness that has occurred among CalWORKs families as a result of prior reductions to the program. The Legislative Analyst's Office provided a list of alternative options in lieu of the Governor's restructuring proposal to achieve program savings. The Subcommittee also heard testimony from the County Welfare Directors Association, numerous advocates and CalWORKs participants.

The Subcommittee took the following actions by a vote of 3 to 1:

- 1) Rejected the Governor's proposed restructure of the CalWORKs Program;
- 2) Restored the Earned Income Disregard to the level in effect prior to the enactment of the State Budget Act of 2011, allowing a family to retain the first \$225 of earnings and 50 percent of all remaining earnings; and
- 3) Approved \$2.5 million to fund automation of the Work Incentive Nutritional Supplement (WINS) Program for implementation by April 2014. The WINS Program will provide an additional CalFresh benefit of \$50 per month beginning in FY 2013-14 for CalWORKs participants who meet the Federal work requirements.

The Subcommittee deferred any further program reductions until after the release of the Governor's May Budget Revision.

In addition, on March 1, 2012, the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review convened to review the Governor's CalWORKs and Child Care Budget proposals. In addition to providing an overview of the proposed changes to the CalWORKs Program, as described above, the hearing also focused on the Governor's Child Care Budget proposal which would restructure all child care and child development programs, except part-time State preschool programs, for a \$446.9 million statewide reduction in

child development programs, among other proposed changes. This proposal would result in an estimated reduction of 62,000 child care slots statewide.

The Committee accepted testimony from over 100 witnesses in opposition to the proposal; however, no action was taken at the hearing. These items will be considered in upcoming Senate Budget Subcommittee hearings.

Legislation of County Interest

AB 1712 (Beall), which as introduced on February 16, 2012, would make technical changes to the statutes governing child welfare services and the Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program (THP-Plus), among other provisions.

This measure also will be the vehicle for clean-up legislation to County-support-in-concept, AB 12 (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010) and AB 212 (Chapter 459, Statutes of 2011) which extended Foster Care and Kinship Guardian Assistance Program benefits to eligible youth up to 21 years of age, as provided in H.R. 6893, the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

AB 1712 is expected to be significantly amended in the future. This office will work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to analyze those amendments once they become available to determine the programmatic and fiscal impact to the County.

Mandated Child Abuse Reporters Legislation. A number of bills have been introduced relating to mandated child abuse reporters as a result of the allegations of child sexual abuse which occurred at Pennsylvania State University. The bills include provisions to add volunteers of public and private organizations, employees of public and private colleges and universities, coaches, athletic directors and administrators, along with those in the film and computer industry, to the list of mandated child abuse reporters.

In particular, the following three measures were heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee and approved unanimously on March 6, 2012.

- **AB 1434 (Feuer)**, which as introduced on January 5, 2012, would add employees of public and private colleges to the list of mandated child abuse reporters. This measure was amended on March 6, 2012 to also include university-sponsored events.

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- **AB 1435 (Dickinson)**, which as amended on February 29, 2012, would add public and private youth center athletic coaches and administrators to the list of mandated child abuse reporters, and requires training for those individuals in the identification of child abuse and neglect.
- **AB 1438 (Bradford)**, which as introduced on January 5, 2012, would require anyone over 18 years of age to report child abuse. This measure was amended on March 6, 2012 to require any person who reasonably believes that he or she has observed a lewd or lascivious act upon a child under 14 years of age to report that incident to law enforcement.

This office is working with DCFS, the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office to determine the impact, if any, of these bills to the County.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:OR:sb

c: All Department Heads
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