County of Los Angeles
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March 21, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

EXTENSION REQUEST ON DECEMBER 13, 2011 BOARD MOTION – ENSURING FOOD SECURITY FOR YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE

On December 13, 2011, by motion of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Interim Directors of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop and implement a plan to ensure complete CalFresh applications are timely and successfully submitted on behalf of foster youth, ages 18-21, when dependency is terminated. This plan should be developed with input from representatives of the affected foster youth community and should suggest pathways to improve enrollment in and retention of other critical government-funded programs, including but not limited to Medi-Cal; and report back in writing in 30 days on the plan and to quarterly report back on the County's improved rates of successfully enrolling aging-out foster youth into CalFresh and other programs.

A work group consisting of CEO, DPSS, DCFS, Probation staff and community advocates was convened to develop a plan to ensure timely and successful application to CalFresh and other programs, identify pathways to improved enrollment and retention, and develop a standard report on the County's improved rates of enrolling aging-out foster youth into CalFresh and other programs.

The workgroup has: conducted an analysis of the total number of foster youth who are currently receiving CalFresh and other services; documented the youth aging-out process for both DCFS and Probation; identifying major challenges; and conducted the first workgroup meeting to identify recommendations. Although we have made significant progress to complete the tasks identified in the motion, it has been

determined that additional time is needed to successfully complete our analysis. Therefore, we request an extension to April, 30, 2012 to complete this effort.

It should be noted that the amendment by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the CEO, Interim Director of DCFS, and the Chief Probation Officer to develop a comprehensive resource guide of all food banks, food closets and public programs, for provision to all exiting youth; solicit donations of food store gift cards from the community and community foundations for distribution to youth in need; enhance the availability of nutritional food information and programs on budgeting, shopping, cost comparison and meal planning to aging-out youth; and develop an outcomes evaluation mechanism by which to measure the long-term impacts of each type of food security assistance resource upon the futures of Los Angeles County aging-out youth, is being led on a separate track by Harvey Kawasaki, Division Chief, Youth Development Services, DCFS.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365 or via e-mail at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:BC:AJ
DS:MM:ljp

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Children and Family Services
Probation
Public Social Services