



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, July 23, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-3434)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Excused: Vice Chair Genevra Berger, Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Daphne Ng and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

Call to order. (12-2675)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:07 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of July 23, 2012 Meeting attendees. (12-2676)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the July 23, 2012 Meeting Agenda. (12-2677)

Due to a lack of a quorum, no action was taken on this item.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 9, 2012. (12-2678)

Due to a lack of a quorum, this item was continued to the next Commission meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

4. Chair's report for July 23, 2012 by Patricia Curry, Chair. (12-2679)

Chair Curry reported the following:

- **Chair Curry distributed a copy of the motion by First 5 LA Chairman, Zev Yaroslavsky, on funding for permanent supportive housing for homeless former foster mothers/families with children aged 0-5 years old. The motion approved an allocation of up to \$25 million to be made available via Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless mothers/families with children 0-5 that were either previously involved in the child welfare system or are exiting foster care and at risk of homelessness.**

Sylvia Drew Ivie, Deputy, 2nd Supervisorial District, noted that the motion was approved with amendments made by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' First 5 LA representative. Chair Curry encouraged Commissioners to express their appreciation to Chairman Yaroslavsky and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for putting forth this funding opportunity for children, Transitional Age Youth (TAY), and families.

- **Members of the Children/TAY Mental Health Workgroups met with Robin Kay, DMH Chief Deputy Director and DMH Director Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W. to discuss the Workgroups' recommendations approved by the Commission at the July 9, 2012 meeting. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the decrease in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding that is being allocated to children and TAY. Director Southard informed the members of the Workgroups that due to the realignment, much of the oversight and supervision of MHSA funding will be with the Board of Supervisors. DMH will be developing a new Community and Support Services (CSS) and Prevention and Early Intervention Plans with new allocations. Additionally, members of the Workgroups have been meeting with the Board offices to discuss concerns with MHSA funding allocation.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation on the California Partners for Permanency (CAPP):

- Rhelda Shabazz, DCFS Deputy Director, Bureau of Strategic Management (12-1551)

Ms. Shabazz distributed a PowerPoint presentation and reported the following:

- **California Partners for Permanency (CAPP) grant is one of six projects in the United States funded through a \$100 million Presidential Initiative to reduce long-term foster care. CAPP focuses on the disproportionality of African and Native American children in the child welfare system. The four participating counties in California are Los Angeles, Fresno, Humboldt and Santa Clara. Humboldt and Fresno counties focus on the American Indian population. Los Angeles and Santa Clara have focused efforts on the African American population. Locally, there are three offices piloting this program. Additionally, the Compton office is shadowing the pilot offices to ensure CAPP is integrated into the Katie A. initiatives and the strategic plan.**
- **The CAPP initiative is funded by the Administration for Children and Families through the Children's Bureau. The first year of funding was allocated to planning; the second and current year funding went towards the launch and implementation of CAPP practices. During the planning phase, stakeholders that included former foster care youth, parents and Parents in Partnership Program participants identified a list of core values. Transparency and trust was recognized as a number one priority with an emphasis on community engagement.**
- **The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) conducted an institutional analysis in the three pilot offices that looked at the following:**
 1. **Structural racism in the department.**
 2. **Structured decision-making tools.**
 3. **Team decision-making meetings to ensure there was consistency in the program development.**

The CSSP is scheduled to release the final report in September 2012.

One of the areas that the analysis identified as a recurring theme is the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) process in regards to issues with placement. Through the course of the analysis, a Family Practice Model was developed as a guide aligned with the Katie A. Panel and the Shared Practice Model. The CAPP model considers race, culture, ethnicity and trauma.

- The Pomona office is scheduled to begin implementation of the CAPP practices in three of their units starting August 1, 2012.
- The community engagement aspect of CAPP requires the pilot offices to identify their community partners, as community partners play an active role through meeting participation. A federal representative visits the pilot offices monthly for feedback and to offer technical assistance on the implementation of the CAPP model.
- Once the CAPP practice model is fully implemented in the pilot offices, CAPP will expand to include all children in the child welfare system.

In response to questions posed by the Commission regarding the coaching and mentoring aspect of CAPP, Ms. Shabazz responded with the following:

- The coaches and mentors are internal staff whose focus is to look at the race of the child/family and any occurrences of trauma. In the instance that trauma is found, the child/family is referred to Wraparound and Mental Health Services.
- Staff undergoes core training on communicating with families of varied ethnic backgrounds in order to eliminate any cultural or racial bias.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

Presentation on Youth Development Services (YDS) and Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12):

- Harvey Kawasaki, DCFS Division Chief, Youth Development Services Division
- Jed Minoff, Probation Director, Placement Services Bureau
- Dave Mitchell, Probation Chief, Placement Services Bureau
- Michael Verner, Probation ILP Director (12-3157)

Mr. Kawasaki provided a 2012 monthly tracking report with data through May 2012 on AB 12 extended foster care rates and reported the following:

- **AB 12 allows youth that are turning 18 years old in 2012 to stay in the child welfare system or opt out. The data in the report is from the point when the youth was considered eligible under AB 12. DCFS offices report directly to their Youth Development Services (YDS) section to track youth that are turning 18 years old.**
- **DCFS currently has approximately 500 youth that are eligible under AB 12. The data collected indicates that 80% of the eligible youth opted to stay in the system as of May 2012 which is an increase from the 61% originally projected. Data collected also reveals that the majority of the youth who have opted to stay in the system remain in their current placement. Additionally, the reasons why youth opt out of the system are also being tracked. Youth that are AWOL and ineligible show the highest percentage on statistics presented. High rates of ineligibility can be attributed to youth that are in the child welfare system because they are under a probate guardianship which requires monitoring by DCFS, and youth that have achieved permanency through a Home of Parent (HOP) order.**
- **Currently, DCFS has approximately 815 youth that turned 18 years old in 2011 and are 18 for a portion of 2012 that have been allowed AB 12 eligibility by the State. Youth that fall under this category and have opted to stay in the system make up the majority of the amount participating in the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). SILP is the least restrictive placement which requires a readiness assessment before approval is granted; there must be sufficient documentation supporting the youth's readiness for independence.**
- **To date, approximately 81% of back end staff has undergone AB 12 training.**
- **AB 12 allows KinGap federal and state savings to fund costs associated with youth that turn 18 and 19 years old in 2012. Since these costs would normally be a county cost, there is an estimated \$2.4 million in savings to the County. Youth that were 19 years of age in 2012 that exited the system now have reentry rights.**

In response the questions posed by the Commission regarding SILP, Mr. Kawasaki stated the following:

- **SILP is not a resource developed by a county or department. The program guidelines require the youth to identify the living situation. YDS staff independently conducts the SILP inspection.**
- **There are ongoing meetings with assistant DCFS regional administrators to discuss different case scenarios surrounding AB 12. The youth is included in these discussions to address any issues and go over their options. However, it is the department's responsibility to ultimately demonstrate that the youth's option of leaving or staying in the system is supported by their self-sufficiency plan. Youth are able to bring someone with them to participate in discussing their self-sufficiency plan.**

Mr. Minoff provided a handout that briefly described the Probation Department's (Probation) involvement with AB 12/AB 212 activities and reported the following:

- **Extended foster care for Probation youth considers the following two categories of youth:**
 1. **Probation youth under the jurisdiction of the Delinquency Court pursuant to Welfare Institution Code 602 (WIC), who are still on probation with an order for foster care placement on their 18th birthday.**
 2. **Probation youth electing to remain in foster care under WIC 450 Transition Jurisdiction. This jurisdiction status can be met if a ward in foster care placement is 17 1/2 years old to 20 years old and has reached his or her rehabilitative goals set forth in their case plan.**
- **Currently there are 255 youth in extended foster care; 38 are categorized under WIC 450 Transition Jurisdiction. Two positions have been created to supervise these youth to address their changing needs.**
- **In terms of placement for youth in extended foster care, Probation is utilizing Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP-Plus FC) and SILP. Probation is highly dependent on SILP for living situations partly due to the various criteria that must be met in order for youth with WIC 450 status to remain in a group home.**

- **Prior to terminating a youth's probation, the Juvenile Court requires sufficient documentation that the youth is fully informed of their options and that extended foster care has been explained. In addition, Probation works closely with its residential-based and transitional jurisdiction services as the youth begin to transition out of probation.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Minoff stated the following:

- **Funding outside of Title IV-E Waiver must cover the costs for extended foster care placement in group homes. The State is expected to provide funding for costs that exceed the federal funding.**

Mr. Mitchell added that an allocation letter has not been received by the State indicating that the funding resources are cost mutual. Counties are expected to cover up-front costs until funds are received from the State. In addition, the State has not yet addressed funding for the increased administration costs for extended foster care. However, Probation has projected a need for an additional ten officers, one manager and one supervisor.

- **Probation is working with the group homes to assist in preparing WIC 450 youth in extended foster care for the transition from a group home to an independent living situation.**

Mr. Mitchell added that it is a concern that federal funds cannot be drawn down for probation youth that turn 18 years old and are on a placement order and not residing in a Title IV-E Waiver appropriate group home. AWOL youth fall into this category. The county will need to cover these costs. This stipulation does not apply to child welfare youth.

- **It is Probation's experience that youth who have chosen not to participate in extended foster care and have stopped their mental health services have re-entered and continued with services.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. DCFS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7. DCFS Director's Report by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS for July 23, 2012. (12-2682)

Director Browning reported that DCFS is:

- **Moving forward and progressing on its Strategic Plan.**
- **Working with the Chief Executive Office on evaluating the process and requirements for contracting providers. A committee was established and is led by Chief Executive Officer, William T Fujioka to evaluate and improve the contracting of services. Revisions and clarification was sent out on the RFP process last week to respond to concern among providers from a recently released RFP.**
- **Working with the Board offices on a Homeless Initiative for youth.**
- **Yielding positive results with its Core Practice Model.**

Director Browning further added that:

- **The new Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) located at the LAC+USC Medical Center opened last week. The location is primarily for youth under ten years of age. DCFS will be providing the Board of Supervisors a report that addresses the needs of children over age ten.**
- **The Katie A. Panel will hold a quarterly meeting on July 27, 2012. Commissioners are invited to attend.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-2680)

There were none.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-2681)

There were none.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of July 23, 2012. (12-3358)

There were none.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of July 23, 2012. (12-2685)

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 11:54 a.m.