



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held April 20, 2004, the Board took the following action:

9

The following was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

“The Department of Children and Family Services currently reports 926 youth missing from foster care; 656 are classified as runaways and 270 were abducted by a parent, relative or guardian. Since January 2004 only 261 have been recovered; consisting of 230 runaways and 31 abducted children.

“Children missing in foster care face an increased risk of harm, including physical and sexual abuse. In response, the Child Welfare League of America and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children created a comprehensive guideline for child welfare and law enforcement agencies to use as a tool to monitor the whereabouts of children in foster care and to effectively respond when a child is missing. As such, it is imperative that Los Angeles County review these guidelines and make recovery of these missing foster youth a high priority.

“An effective approach to addressing this high-priority issue consist of two parts: prevention and enforcement. Prevention may be addressed through the fostering of improved relationships between children and their care providers. Enforcement may be enhanced through a collaborative structure of agencies that quickly mobilize to assist County and local law enforcement to jointly locate children missing from foster care.”

(Continued on Page 2)

9 (Continued)

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Antonovich and on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich being absent), the Director of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Sheriff, the Directors of Health Services and Mental Health, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Chief Probation Officer, Director of Public Social Services, local law enforcement agencies, local school districts and other organizations as needed, was directed to review the comprehensive guidelines created by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and report back to the Board within 90 days on the feasibility of strategies for locating missing youth in foster care which may include the following:

1. The creation of a 1-800 missing children hotline;
2. The reporting of the missing children to NCMEC to allow for quick posting on the national website;
3. The creation of a collaborative structure comprised of representatives from the Sheriff's Department, local law enforcement, Department of Children and Family Services, and other agencies and organizations as needed, with the specific mission to locate the missing youth within 120 days;
4. Inclusion of outcome measures in upcoming Foster Family Agency and Group Home contracts regarding improved relationships between children and their care providers;
5. Hosting a conference or seminar, in collaboration with CWLA and NCMEC, to train social workers, law enforcement, teachers, foster parents, community providers and other professionals on their roles in ensuring the safety and recovery of children missing in foster care; and

(Continued on Page 3)

9 (Continued)

6. The development of a training guide for local and County law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children and Family Services to use in the recovery of missing foster youth.

5042004-9

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Chief Probation Officer
- Director of Health Services
- Director of Mental Health
- Director of Public Social Services
- Superintendent of Schools

Letters sent to:

- Police Chief, City of Los Angeles
- District Attorney
- Sheriff
- Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court