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County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

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Second District

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JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

March 26, 2019

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018)

On September 25, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a coordinated faith-based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities: 1) Explore hiring a faith consultant in partnership with philanthropy; 2) Develop measurements and data collection methods; and 3) Explore creating a centralized faith-based unit within DCFS.

Methodology

To respond to the Board's directives, the Center and DCFS conducted research on best practices, convened stakeholders, and consulted with Board offices to outline an approach and develop a framework. The group determined that a Task Force, the *Faith-Based Engagement Task Force*, comprised of key public, private, faith, and community-based stakeholders, would best help achieve the Board's directives. DCFS began an internal mapping of its existing faith-based partnerships by designing a questionnaire to send to its regional offices. Finally, DCFS and the Center interviewed several foster family agencies, leaders of various foster care ministries across the County, philanthropic partners, community-based organizations, and other relevant County departments for their input.

Summary of Recommendations

Based on these initial convenings and interviews, the attached report makes the following recommendations: 1) Engage a Faith-Based Consultant; 2) Identify Promising Pilot Programs; 3) Develop Appropriate Measures and Data Collection; and 4) Create a Centralized Faith-Based Unit within DCFS:

1. Engage a Faith-Based Consultant

- Engage a faith-based consultant through the private sector to lead the Task Force and support DCFS in its faith-based initiatives; and
- Seek philanthropic investments and partnerships to support the consultant.

2. Identify Promising Pilot Programs

- Build on knowledge of promising programs developed through the initial research and interviews to develop pilot programs throughout the County; and
- Continue to support existing promising programs, which are in various stages of implementation across the County.

3. Develop Appropriate Measurements and Data Collection Methods

- Review and analyze results of the internal DCFS survey;
- Develop and implement surveys of the faith community; and
- Develop measurements and data collection methods to determine impact.

4. Create a Centralized Faith-Based Unit within DCFS

- Create a centralized faith-based unit within DCFS' Office of Equity; and
- Develop recommendations regarding size, scope, and funding of the unit.

Next Steps

Immediate next steps involve the Center and DCFS continuing to work with philanthropic partners to identify and engage a consultant with the requisite expertise to achieve the objectives outlined in the motion.

Each Supervisor
March 26, 2019
Page 3


Following onboarding of the consultant, the Faith-Based Engagement Task Force will be fully formed and convened regularly until Board directives have been implemented. Progress reports will be provided to the Board at six-month intervals.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Fesia Davenport at (213) 974-1186 or via email at fdavenport@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:JJ:FAD
KA:TH:km

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Commission for Children and Families



*Roadmap to a
Faith-Based Engagement Strategy
For Our Foster Youth*

presented by:

**Center for Strategic Partnerships and
Department of Children and Family Services**

March 2019

Los Angeles, California

On September 25, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a coordinated faith-based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities:

1. Engage with philanthropy to explore creating capacity, and the potential to bring on a consultant to achieve the following goals:
 - Collaborate with key County departments, partner organizations and stakeholders to develop a strategic and coordinated framework to successfully engage the faith-based community; and
 - Identify promising pilot programs based on the regional needs identified in each supervisorial district that may include programs such as resource family recruitment, visitation centers and monitoring, respite care, cultural brokers, concrete supports, assessments, substance abuse counseling, and other support services.
2. Develop appropriate measurements and data collection methods to demonstrate the impact of faith-based engagement and to guide promising practices for future initiatives;
3. Explore whether a centralized unit within DCFS should be established to manage, coordinate, and oversee

implementation of faith-based outreach, ensuring participation and involvement with relevant County departments and to partner organizations. And if so, make recommendations as to size and scope of a centralized unit and explore options for funding, with recommendations included during the 2019-2020 budget cycle.

This status report highlights progress made in implementing the Board's directives.

Background

Research has shown that faith-based organizations have a longstanding tradition of providing concrete resources and supportive services to families in need, as well as to the communities in which they reside, and therefore, serve as a vital component of the informal social safety net. Further, for many families, the common denominator for hope, strength, and grounding is their faith. Faith-based organizations across Los Angeles County have historically partnered with DCFS in support of children and families involved with the child welfare system; however, the strength and effectiveness of these partnerships has ebbed and flowed as resources and departmental, and community leaders have changed over the years. As a result, the faith community collectively represents a largely untapped resource for a broad range of services and supports for children and families.

The faith community stands ready to formally offer and extend their services in the area of child welfare in a strategic manner, offering their time, services, and resources to meet the needs of the children

and families in their communities, while working collaboratively with the department. The September 2018 Board motion provides the support and tremendous opportunity to engage the faith community like never before, in a way that is intentional and inclusive of all faith communities so that together, we may continue to strengthen the lives of the children and families we serve.

Countywide Faith-Based-Engagement Framework

Following adoption of the Board motion, representatives from the Center, DCFS, Commission for Children and Families, Foster Together Network (a public-private collaborative supporting the Department's recruitment efforts), faith-based community partners, and the First and Fifth Supervisorial Districts met to outline a preliminary approach to achieving its objectives. There was consensus that an effective and coordinated faith-based engagement framework must both build upon current examples of successful faith-based collaboration in Los Angeles County and be strategically designed to leverage the largely untapped resources of communities of faith across the jurisdiction. Said framework must also be interfaith in nature, and responsive to the often complex intersectionality of faith and Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Expression (SOGIE) needs of foster youth, in addition to the racial disparity and disproportionality that exists for marginalized populations (e.g., African American families).

Meeting participants determined that Board directives would be best carried out through a task force process and structure that is informed by: 1) mapping of existing faith-

based collaborative partnerships that can be leveraged and/or strengthened; 2) analysis of DCFS regional office needs and overall organizational capacity; and 3) localized faith-based stakeholder engagement efforts. When fully formed, this Task Force, the Faith-Based Engagement Task Force, will be comprised of key public, private, faith, and community-based stakeholders.

Internal mapping of DCFS' existing faith-based partnerships, as well as analysis of unmet regional office needs that may potentially be met by faith-based partnerships has been initiated. A questionnaire designed to capture this initial baseline data was developed and will be distributed to all DCFS regional offices and support divisions. In preparation for dissemination of the questionnaire, and in an effort to fully engage regional administrators and division chiefs, the Board motion and questionnaire will be presented at an upcoming managers' meeting.

Similarly, exploration of existing faith-based collaborative efforts, and opportunities for future collaboration among stakeholders external to DCFS is also in progress. To date, each Board office, several foster family agencies, leaders of various foster care ministries across the County, philanthropic partners, community-based organizations, and other relevant County departments have been preliminarily engaged as part of this process. Many of these stakeholders are projected to remain involved in this initiative as Task Force members.

Faith-based stakeholder engagement efforts, planned by the Task Force, are projected to take place in each Supervisorial District. Preliminary goals of these engagement activities include building

and/or strengthening relationships between DCFS regional offices and local communities of faith, and identifying opportunities for collaboration based on regional needs and the capacity of local faith-based organizations.

Faith-Based Consultant

Fully realizing the vision of the Board motion will require the services of a uniquely qualified consultant with expertise in designing faith-based programs, with a specific focus on building and sustaining effective services, resources, and practices. This consultant would be contracted through the private sector and would, ideally, be competent in interfaith collaboration, and possess a working knowledge of DCFS, the County's Supervisorial Districts, Service Planning Areas, and the equity disparities impacting various communities. To begin the process of engaging a consultant, the Center and DCFS jointly developed a faith-based consultant scope of work, which outlined motion goals, associated deliverables, and activities. The Center sent the proposed scope of work to philanthropic partners for input. Subsequently, on March 1, 2019, the Center and DCFS together convened a select group of key philanthropic partners to discuss the consultant scope of work and explore how philanthropy can be a true partner in this work. Input from that meeting was integrated into the Scope of Work. It was finalized on March 6, 2019 and both sectors are seeking viable candidates.

Promising Pilot Programs

A series of informational meetings regarding promising pilot programs and effective models of public child welfare and faith-

based collaboration have taken place and will continue to occur. Local and national models spanning the child welfare service delivery continuum, and ranging from programs designed to prevent child welfare involvement by strengthening the community safety net, to the development of resource family support networks within congregations, to the use of technology to mobilize faith-based organizations have been catalogued and will be further explored for possible implementation in appropriate regions.

Currently, several promising child welfare and faith-based collaborative initiatives are in various implementation stages across the County and three of them are described below.

Fostering Home – Fostering Home is a public-private, resource family recruitment model which targets communities of faith in areas impacted by insufficient placement resources. The Fostering Home model is designed to jumpstart the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process by serving as a “one-stop-shop” for prospective resource families. During a Fostering Home convening, prospective caregivers have the opportunity to begin the approval process with either DCFS or a foster family agency by completing mandatory components of the RFA process, such as the RFA orientation, Livescan, and health screening, if necessary.

In the Fostering Home model, local faith leaders are recruited to serve as faith liaisons and charged with engaging faith communities to increase awareness of the urgent need for resource families in the identified community, and mobilizing action. Ideally, faith liaisons also help to bridge the divide between DCFS and the faith community, with the goal of strengthening

collaborative partnerships that will continue to thrive well beyond the Fostering Home convening.

Led by the Center, and in partnership with DCFS and other stakeholders, the Fostering Home model launched in South Los Angeles in June 2017, and was attended by over 200 individuals. Fostering Home – Pomona, took place in September 2018 and was attended by over 100 people. Fostering Home – Downey, is projected to take place in May 2019.

Faith Foster Families Network (3FN) – The establishment of 3FN was an unexpected yet welcomed outcome of Fostering Home – South Los Angeles. After being deeply moved by the event and called to action by the tremendous need, six large, predominately African-American churches have come together to create the 3FN foster care ministry. For the past year, 3FN has been meeting to establish itself as an entity, including hiring an executive director and seeking private funding. The organization is now ready to begin their work in the community and further explore how to best partner with DCFS.

The African American Community Engagement (ACE) Project – In September 2018 the Board adopted a motion directing DCFS to implement as a pilot, the ACE Project in the Pomona area. The ACE Project, designed for the community by the community, is a faith-based model that leverages the strong partnerships between the Pomona DCFS regional office, its local faith community, and network of community-based service providers. The goals of the ACE Project are to:

- Reduce racial disparity in Los Angeles County’s child welfare system;
- Reduce out-of-home care placements;
- Increase family reunification; and
- Strengthen the continuum of care through engagement with the faith-based community.

Since the adoption of the ACE Project Board motion, DCFS and its partners have made steady progress toward program implementation. Several key milestones have been reached, including establishment of the ACE Collaborative, which guides and supports the work to implement the program; staffing the project; development of significant administrative processes; development of marketing and informational materials; and confirmation of the participation of 16 of 20 anchor churches.

Additionally, Casey Family Programs has been engaged to provide technical support around the development of the model’s evaluation framework.

Develop Appropriate Measurements and Data Collection Methods

As noted previously, a questionnaire has been developed to gather baseline data on the extent of engagement between DCFS regional offices and support divisions, and local faith communities, as well as to assess regional needs. Upon establishment of the full Task Force, a similar questionnaire will be developed and implemented with the faith community to collect comparable data on engagement with DCFS, as well as respective organizations’ capacity to meet DCFS regional needs. Questionnaire findings will be used to inform Task Force efforts.

Further development of appropriate measurements and data collection methods to determine impact, and importantly, facilitate ongoing optimization and strengthening of the faith-based engagement framework will be a primary deliverable of the Task Force. Additionally, metrics for success will be identified for each program piloted in response to the Board motion. This information will be provided in subsequent progress updates.

Centralized Unit Within DCFS

Having recognized the importance of centralized administration and support of key ancillary programs targeting marginalized groups, DCFS's soon-to-be established Office of Equity will serve as home to the faith-based engagement section, as well as the central hub for the department's work in racial equity and inclusion, women and girls initiatives, and its efforts to meet the unique SOGIE needs of youth in care.

Despite deliberate efforts to address disparity and disproportionality among some of the most vulnerable populations in child welfare (e.g., African Americans, LGBTQ+ youth, young women and girls), there remains a pressing need to focus intently on developing and implementing effective services to meet the needs of these populations, many of which may involve faith-based collaboration. The Office of Equity is designed to meet this need. It is a centralized division responsible for providing oversight, management, and alignment of the Department's efforts to Eliminate Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD). This will include faith-based initiatives, LGBTQ+ work, and initiatives related to women and girls. Recommendations

regarding size, scope, and funding of the faith-based engagement unit will be provided in future progress updates.

Next Steps

Immediate next steps involve the Center's and DCFS' continued work with philanthropic partners to identify and engage a consultant with the requisite expertise to achieve the objectives outlined in the motion. Following onboarding of the consultant, the Faith-Based Engagement Task Force will be fully formed and convened regularly until Board directives have been fully implemented. Progress reports will be provided to the Board at six-month intervals.



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KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

September 18, 2019

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT: FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018)

On September 25, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion (Motion) by Supervisors Solis and Barger, directing the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a coordinated faith-based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities: 1) explore hiring a faith-based consultant in partnership with philanthropy; 2) develop measurements and data collection methods; and 3) explore creating a centralized Faith-Based Unit within DCFS.

On March 26, 2019, the Center and DCFS submitted a report detailing their initial findings and next steps. In that report, we committed to providing progress reports every six months. This report serves as the first of those progress reports. The future progress reports will be submitted by DCFS.

SUMMARY OF INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In the March 26, 2019 report, the Center and DCFS made the following recommendations to achieve the motion's desired outcomes: 1) engage a faith-based consultant and establish a faith-based taskforce; 2) identify promising pilot programs; 3) develop appropriate measurements and data collection; and 4) create a centralized Faith-Based Unit within DCFS. Over the past six months, the Center and DCFS have worked extensively to initiate the desired outcomes noted above with the following efforts:

1. Engaged a Faith-Based Consultant and Establish a Faith-Based Taskforce

- Grace Weltman, faith-based consultant (Consultant), was contracted in May 2019 through Southern California Grantmakers;
- Philanthropic funding for the Consultant was secured with the support of three private foundations;
- On May 21, 2019, the Board directed DCFS to co-invest in funding the Consultant using up to \$100,000 from the Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support award funding;
- On June 21, 2019, the first Faith-Based Community Taskforce (Taskforce) convening was held. The Taskforce, comprised of public, private, faith, and other community-based stakeholders, will serve as the primary vehicle through which the countywide faith-based framework will be developed. The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2019; and
- The Consultant has been working closely and meeting frequently with DCFS leadership since being onboarded.

2. Identify Promising Pilot Programs

- The Consultant is currently completing a landscape analysis of County of Los Angeles' (County) faith communities, which will include mapping of existing resources; identification of service gaps, needs and opportunities; and cataloging of best practices. The landscape analysis report is projected to be completed by November 2019;
- The Consultant is working with DCFS to host convenings in regions across the County to engage and conduct focus groups with faith-based organizations, faith leaders, foster youth, and other stakeholders; and
- The Consultant has and will continue to engage DCFS, the community, all five supervisorial districts, and other relevant stakeholders to inform and develop promising pilot programs based on the regional needs identified in each supervisorial district. This may include programs, such as resource family recruitment, visitation centers and monitoring, respite care, cultural brokers, concrete supports, assessments, substance abuse counseling, and other support services. This work will be informed by the landscape analysis.

3. Developed Appropriate Measurements and Data Collection Methods

- DCFS initiated an internal Faith-Based Partnership Engagement Survey on April 26, 2019. The survey gathered information from DCFS regional offices and specialized programs and was completed in June 2019. The survey captured unique experiences and perspectives on how to strengthen faith-based

partnerships, as well as information on the needs and capacities of regional offices in engaging faith communities;

- The Consultant will develop appropriate measurements and data collection methods for analysis and will continue to work with DCFS leadership and staff to identify and implement best practices and strategies that enhance faith community partnerships and improve outcomes for children and families;
- DCFS will further engage communities through Invest LA initiatives, exploring opportunities to inform communities in all Service Planning Areas about the efforts to develop a faith-based engagement framework for foster youth; and
- The Consultant will conduct follow-up focus group sessions at a regional level with the community and faith-based organizations based upon community needs and input.

4. Created a Centralized Faith-Based Unit within DCFS

- The Faith-Based Unit will be established as a stand-alone Unit within DCFS;
- The Consultant is developing an organizational framework for the Faith-Based Unit. The framework will offer suggestions as to how the Unit will operate internally within DCFS and externally with faith-based organizations and local communities; and
- Various strategies will be employed to inform the development of a staffing plan and goals for the Unit. These strategies include, but are not limited to, interviews and site visits with DCFS Regional Administrators and their staff to assess internal capacity and identify needs to ensure that the Unit can effectively support and guide the regional offices in engaging their faith communities on an ongoing basis.

NEXT STEPS

The Center and DCFS will continue to collaborate on implementing the directives outlined in the Board's motion. The next six-month progress report will be submitted by DCFS in March 2020 and will include any pertinent updates on the status of the efforts.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Kate Anderson, Director, Center for Strategic Partnerships, at (310) 428-6571 or via email at kanderson@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:FAD
KA:ESC:yy

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
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Commission for Children and Families



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Fifth District

March 13, 2020

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: *Cynthia McCoy Miller for*
Bobby D. Cagle
Director

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT: FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018)

This second progress report is in response to the motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) and introduced by Supervisors Solis and Barger on September 25, 2018, directing the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), to develop a coordinated faith-based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities: 1) explore hiring a faith-based consultant in partnership with philanthropy; 2) develop measurements and data collection methods; and 3) explore creating a centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS.

As previously reported in our March 26, 2019 and September 18, 2019 progress reports to the Board, the Center and DCFS successfully initiated directives one through three of the Board's motion listed above.

The Center and DCFS also continued their ongoing collaborative efforts to implement the recommendations noted in the aforementioned reports in order to achieve the overall goals and outcomes of DCFS' newly created Faith-Based Section. As such, this progress report highlights our continued efforts in the following areas:

- Engage with Faith-Based Consultant and the Faith-Based Taskforce;
- Identify Promising Pilot Programs;
- Develop Appropriate Measures and Data Collection; and
- Create a DCFS Centralized Faith-Based Section.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

PROGRESS UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past six months, the Center and DCFS worked extensively together to advance their efforts related to the implementation of the above noted recommendations as detailed below:

➤ **Engaged a Faith-Based Consultant and Established a Faith-Based Taskforce**

- In May 2019, Grace Weltman was contracted through Southern California Grantmakers as the Faith-Based Consultant (Consultant);
- On October 10, 2019, the second Faith-Based Community Taskforce (Taskforce) meeting was held at the California Endowment. The interactive discussion that took place helped inform the development of the countywide faith-based engagement and sustainment framework for child-welfare involved children, youth, and families;
- On February 12, 2020, a third Taskforce meeting was held at the Center of Hope Church (a faith-based partner). A diverse group of stakeholders, including: faith-based leaders, philanthropic partners, government leaders, representatives of the Commission for Children and Families, County Board of Supervisors' Deputies and DCFS, participated in small group discussions addressing four main questions to advance the development of the framework;
- The Consultant met with Regional Administrators to discuss specific needs within their Service Planning Areas (SPA) and how the centralized Faith-Based Section could best support their offices, foster youth, resource families, and birth families that they serve; and
- The Consultant continues to engage in regular contact with DCFS, the Center, and Commission for Children and Families.

➤ **Identified Promising Pilot Programs via a Landscape Analysis**

- The Consultant completed a landscape analysis of faith communities in Los Angeles County, which included a mapping of existing resources; identification of service gaps, needs and opportunities; and cataloging of best practices. The landscape analysis report was completed on February 13, 2020;
- The Consultant has continued to work with DCFS on hosting convenings in regions across the County to engage and conduct focus groups with faith-based organizations, faith leaders, foster youth, DCFS regional offices, administrators, staff, the community, all five Supervisorial Districts, and other relevant stakeholders to inform and develop promising pilot programs based on the regional needs identified in each district. This includes programs such as resource family recruitment, visitation centers, respite care, cultural brokers, concrete supports,

assessments, substance abuse counseling, and other supportive services. This work has and will continue to be informed by the landscape analysis; and

- The African American Community Engagement (ACE) Project, based in Pomona, California, is an example of a promising faith-based model. With Board support, DCFS allocated funding to extend the program for a second year. The goal is to expand the ACE Pilot into SPA 1 (Antelope Valley) and SPA 6 (Vermont, Compton/Carson and Hawthorne), both of which have been identified in the landscape analysis as service gap areas.

➤ **Developed Appropriate Measurements and Assessed Data Collection Methods**

- DCFS initiated an internal Faith-Based Partnership Engagement Survey on April 26, 2019. The survey gathered information from DCFS regional offices and specialized programs and was completed in June 2019. The survey captured unique experiences and perspectives on how to strengthen faith-based partnerships, as well as information on the needs and capacities of regional offices in engaging faith communities; and
- Focus group data has been collected from youth currently in foster care via a DCFS Teen Club. Youth shared information about their experiences and needs that will inform the faith-based engagement and sustainment framework, as well as potential pilot projects. Additional focus groups will be conducted with current and former foster youth affiliated with the Opportunity Youth Collaborative and LGBT Center of Los Angeles during the next quarter.

Additional efforts underway:

- The Consultant will develop appropriate measurements and data collection methods for analysis and will continue to work with DCFS leadership and staff to identify and implement best practices and strategies that enhance faith community partnerships and improve outcomes for children and families;
- DCFS will further engage communities through Invest LA initiatives, exploring opportunities to inform communities in all SPAs about the efforts to develop a faith-based engagement framework for foster youth; and
- The Consultant will conduct follow-up focus group sessions at a regional level with the community and faith-based organizations, based upon community needs and input.

➤ **Created a Centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS**

- A program manager for the Faith-Based Section was selected and on-boarded on January 31, 2020;

- The Consultant is working with the Deputy Director and program manager on developing an organizational framework for the Faith-Based Section. The framework will offer suggestions as to how the section will operate internally within DCFS and externally with faith-based organizations and local communities; and
- Various strategies will be employed to inform the development of a staffing plan and goals for the section. These strategies include, but are not limited to interviews and site visits with Regional Administrators and their staff to assess internal capacity and identify needs to ensure that the section can effectively support and guide the regional offices in engaging local faith communities on a consistent and ongoing basis.

NEXT STEPS

DCFS and the Center will continue to collaborate on achieving the goals and directives established for the newly created Faith-Based Section in DCFS.

We look forward to providing you with the next six-month progress report in September 2020.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me, or your staff may also contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

BDC:GP:CMM
APP:kjh

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

BOBBY D. CAGLE
Director

GINGER PRYOR
Chief Deputy Director

February 5, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Bobby D. Cagle
Director

THIRD PROGRESS REPORT: FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018)

This third progress report is in response to the Motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) and introduced by Supervisors Solis and Barger on September 25, 2018. The Motion directed the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a coordinated Faith-Based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities: 1) explore hiring a Faith-Based consultant in partnership with philanthropy; 2) develop measurements and data collection methods; and 3) explore creating a centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS.

As previously reported in the March 26, 2019, September 18, 2019, and March 13, 2020, progress reports to the Board, the Center and DCFS successfully initiated all three directives of the Board Motion. The Center and DCFS also continued their ongoing collaborative efforts to implement the recommendations noted in the aforementioned reports in order to achieve the overall goals and outcomes of the newly created DCFS Faith-Based Section. As such, this report highlights the achievements implemented and summarizes the continued efforts in the following areas:

- Engaged with a Faith-Based Consultant and the Faith-Based Taskforce;
- Identified Promising Pilot Programs via a Landscape Analysis;
- Developed Appropriate Measures and Assessed Data Collection Methods; and
- Created a Centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

PROGRESS UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past six months, the Center and DCFS have worked extensively together to advance their efforts related to the implementation of the following recommendations:

➤ **Engaged a Faith-Based Consultant and Established a Faith-Based Taskforce**

- In May 2019, Grace Weltman was contracted through Southern California Grantmakers as the Faith-Based Consultant (Consultant);
- Meetings were held with the Faith-Based Community Taskforce (Faith-Based Taskforce) during the months of July 2019, October 2019, and February 2020;
- On February 21, 2020, Grace Weltman facilitated a Faith-Based Session for the Service Planning Area (SPA) 2 Invest LA Community Forum event. The session entailed small breakout group discussions and a geo-mapping activity on engagement efforts in SPA 2;
- On April 3, 2020, a fourth meeting was held virtually with the Faith-Based Taskforce to discuss the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Safer at Home Order issued by Governor Newsom. A diverse group of stakeholders participated in an active discussion on the pandemic, impacts experienced and emerging challenges;
- On May 14, 2020, a fifth Faith-Based Taskforce meeting was held virtually. A status update was provided on the work associated with the Los Angeles County Faith in Motion (LAC FIM) Framework, such as research on various FIM models in other counties, DCFS Regional Office staff interviews, landscape analysis of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), COVID-19 survey results and future focus groups to inform the framework;
- The Consultant and Faith-Based Program Manager met with 20 DCFS Regional Office teams to discuss specific needs within their local communities and how the centralized Faith-Based Section could best support the foster youth, resource families, and birth families that they serve;
- During June through November 2020, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager conducted a series of virtual focus groups to discuss key components of the LAC FIM with diverse stakeholders, such as clergy and laypersons, FBOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), philanthropy and DCFS Faith-Based staff;
- The Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager engaged current and former foster youth by facilitating focus groups where the youth served as Subject Matter Experts, sharing their experience and perspective about FBOs providing support to foster children and youth. Three focus groups have been

- held, one at the Pico-Union area Teen Club and two were held in partnership with the Alliance for Children's Rights Opportunity Youth Collaborative; and
- The Consultant continues to regularly engage with DCFS, the Center and the Commission for Children and Families.

➤ **Identified Promising Pilot Programs via a Landscape Analysis**

- The Consultant and Faith-Based Program Manager have continued to work with DCFS on hosting convenings to engage with FBOs, faith leaders, foster youth, DCFS Regional Offices, administrators, staff, the community, all five Supervisorial Districts and other relevant stakeholders to inform and develop promising pilot programs based on the regional needs identified in each district. This includes programs such as resource family recruitment, respite care, cultural brokers, prevention and aftercare and other supportive services;
- The African-American Community Engagement (ACE) Project, based in Pomona, California, is an example of a promising Faith-Based model. The project has been successful in utilizing Community Cultural Brokers to provide resources and support services to African American families;
- During the month of May 2020, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, in partnership with Faith Foster Families Network, Good Plus Foundation, and DCFS held events in celebration of National Foster Care Awareness Month. Four events were held to support families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in SPA 6, where 400 families were provided with tangible items such as food and diapers; and
- On September 1, 2020, DCFS established a non-financial Partnership Agreement with CarePortal for the duration of one year. CarePortal is a technology platform used to mobilize FBOs to respond and meet identified needs of DCFS children and families. The CarePortal Project was successfully launched in SPA 2 on October 15, 2020. The CarePortal Project is on schedule to roll out in 2021 within designated SPAs, targeting vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

➤ **Developed Appropriate Measurements and Assessed Data Collection Methods**

- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant distributed a voluntary COVID-19 Impact Survey to the Faith-Based Taskforce in May 2020. The results highlighted employment and economic needs concerns about the impact on racial minorities, increased need for tangible goods and resources, immigration service demands, and mental health instability as high priority;
- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will continue to develop appropriate measurements and data collection methods for analysis

- and will continue to work with DCFS leadership and staff to identify and implement best practices and strategies that enhance faith community partnerships and improve outcomes for children and families;
- DCFS will further engage communities through Invest LA initiatives by establishing Communities of Hope, participating in community-defined projects and exploring opportunities to inform communities in all SPAs about the efforts to develop a Faith-Based engagement framework for foster youth;
 - The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will conduct data and performance outcomes workgroup sessions with the diverse stakeholders, including CBOs and FBOs to discuss assets and challenges, co-design data collection methods for qualitative and quantitative data and establish plans for improving prevention, permanency and timely access to culturally responsive supports. The goals of these workgroup sessions are to identify relevant data to create system-wide understanding of issues/priorities and to monitor progress; and
 - The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will work with the DCFS Research Section, Program Development Office, Business Information Systems Division, and Resource Family Recruitment and Approval Division to inform measurable outcome strategies and data tracking methods.

➤ **Created a Centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS**

- On January 31, 2020, the Faith-Based Section Program Manager was on-boarded. Due to the Countywide hiring freeze and budgetary conservation efforts, the acquisition of additional staff has been temporarily suspended. The goal of the section is to ultimately expand to include a team of subordinate programmatic and support staff;
- As of March 2020, strategies for Faith-Based engagements were modified to virtual meetings;
- Various strategies will be employed to inform the development of a phased implementation plan of the LAC FIM that will occur over the next three years. These strategies include, but are not limited to, virtual meetings with Regional Administrators and their staff to assess internal capacity and identify needs to ensure that the Faith-Based Section can effectively support and guide engagement of the local faith communities on a consistent and ongoing basis. In part, the implementation will focus on expanding partnerships with philanthropy and working with the LA County Faith Collaborative (Faith Collaborative) target areas of need, particularly South Los Angeles, Antelope Valley and East Los Angeles. The Department is working closely with faith partners to establish a Faith Collaborative, which will promote interfaith participation and include faith partners from diverse FBOs, CBOs, philanthropy, other County departments, universities and other sectors.

- Beginning March 2021, the Faith Collaborative will meet quarterly to discuss strategies that help improve Faith-Based partnerships, as well as guide outreach and engagement of diverse faith communities particularly around mobilizing our resources to support the children and families in LA County;
- In addition, specific outreach will be done to expand partnerships with affirming ministries and providing resources to better address the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning families and youth;
 - The Consultant is working with the Faith-Based Section Program Manager to coordinate outreach efforts that will increase diverse Faith-Based engagement at the regional office level. Input by diverse stakeholders including faith leaders, philanthropy, community organizations and other Faith-Based Taskforce members will be used to develop an outreach plan to support long-term sustainability of the DCFS Faith-Based Section; and
 - Outreach efforts with non-DCFS stakeholders have included FBOs, philanthropy, CBOs, County departments and other leaders. Focused engagement is underway to expand the interfaith partnerships and develop better relationships with leaders of various denominations with large networks throughout LA County.

NEXT STEPS

DCFS and the Center will continue to collaborate on implementing the directives outlined in the Board's Motion. The next progress report will be submitted in May 2021, and will include any pertinent updates on the status of those efforts.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me, or your staff may also contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

BDC:GP:CMM

APP:dr

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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Director

GINGER PRYOR
Chief Deputy Director

November 29, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: 
Bobby D. Cagle
Director

FIFTH PROGRESS REPORT: FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (ITEM NO. 22, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018)

This fifth progress report is in response to the Motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) and introduced by Supervisors Solis and Barger on September 25, 2018. The Motion directed the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a coordinated Faith-Based engagement strategy and program, and to report back in six months on the status of the following activities: 1) explore hiring a Faith-Based consultant in partnership with philanthropy; 2) develop measurements and data collection methods; and 3) explore creating a centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS.

As previously reported in the March 26, 2019, September 18, 2019, March 13, 2020, February 5, 2021 and May 25, 2021 progress reports to the Board, the Center and DCFS successfully initiated all three directives of the Board Motion. The Center and DCFS also continued their ongoing collaborative efforts to implement the recommendations noted in the aforementioned reports in order to achieve the overall goals and outcomes of the newly created DCFS Faith-Based Section. As such, this report highlights the achievements implemented and summarizes the continued efforts in the following areas:

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

- Engaged with a Faith-Based Consultant and the Faith-Based Taskforce;
- Identified Promising Pilot Programs via a Landscape Analysis;
- Developed Appropriate Measures and Assessed Data Collection Methods; and
- Created a Centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center and DCFS have continued to work extensively together to advance their efforts related to the implementation of the following recommendations:

➤ **Engaged a Faith-Based Consultant and Established a Faith-Based Taskforce**

- In May 2019, Grace Weltman was contracted through Southern California Grantmakers as the Faith-Based Consultant (Consultant);
- Meetings were held with the Faith-Based Community Taskforce (Faith-Based Taskforce) during the months of July 2019, October 2019, and February 2020;
- On February 21, 2020, the Consultant facilitated a Faith-Based Session for the Service Planning Area (SPA) 2 Invest LA Community Forum event. The session entailed small breakout group discussions and a geo-mapping activity on engagement efforts in SPA 2;
- On April 3, 2020, a fourth meeting was held virtually with the Faith-Based Taskforce to discuss the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Safer at Home Order issued by Governor Newsom. A diverse group of stakeholders participated in an active discussion on the pandemic, impacts experienced and emerging challenges;
- On May 14, 2020, a fifth Faith-Based Taskforce meeting was held virtually. A status update was provided on the work associated with the LA County Faith in Motion (LAC FIM) Framework, such as research on various FIM models in other counties, DCFS Regional Office staff interviews, landscape analysis of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), COVID-19 survey results and future focus groups to inform the framework;
- The Consultant and Faith-Based Program Manager met with 20 DCFS Regional Office teams to discuss specific needs within their local communities and how the centralized Faith-Based Section could best support the foster youth, resource families, and birth families that they serve. The Regional Office team leads are referenced as Faith-Based Liaisons (FBLs) as detailed in the LAC FIM;
- On October 14, 2020, the Consultant and Faith-Based Program supported and attended the SPA 1 Invest LA Community Engagement Forum virtual event. The event focused on the faith community theme “What Matters to

- You Matters to Us.” The event included a panel discussion with DCFS and faith partners;
- From June to November 2020, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager conducted a series of virtual focus groups to discuss key components of the LAC FIM with diverse stakeholders, such as clergy and laypersons, FBOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), philanthropy and DCFS Faith-Based staff;
 - The Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager engaged current and former foster youth by facilitating focus groups where the youth served as Subject Matter Experts, sharing their experience and perspectives about FBOs providing support to foster children and youth. Three focus groups were held, one at the Pico-Union area Teen Club and two were held in partnership with the Alliance for Children’s Rights Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC);
 - On November 5, 2020, a sixth and final Faith-Based Taskforce meeting was held virtually. An overview of the LAC FIM framework draft was discussed. The 2021 launch of the new LA County Faith Collaborative (Faith Collaborative) was introduced as the next phase of engagement for the Taskforce members. An invitation was extended to those interested in participating in the Faith Collaborative Steering Committee;
 - Beginning January 2021, Faith Collaborative Steering Committee (Steering Committee) planning meetings were held. The Steering Committee is comprised of volunteer faith partners, FBLs, and the Center and Commission for Children and Families;
 - On January 15, 2021, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager met with the LA County Homeless Initiative to establish a partnership that increases faith-based support for Transition Age Youth (TAY);
 - On January 27, 2021, the Consultant and Faith-Based Program Manager met with Department of Health Services (DHS) to strategize intentional efforts that will support foster youth in the Antelope Valley;
 - In February 2021, the Faith Collaborative Leadership Team was established and is comprised of the Faith-Based Program Manager and three faith partners, Pastor Dan Broyles, Dr. Erica Holmes and Gerry McDaniel, who will act as co-chairs for a term of two years;
 - On March 31, 2021, the inaugural LA County Faith Collaborative meeting was held virtually with an agenda that demonstrated DCFS’ commitment and investment to work in partnership with diverse members of the faith community to serve youth and families. The three co-chairs were introduced to the faith community, which actively co-led the Faith Collaborative meeting. In addition, the agenda included updates on LAC FIM implementation, two former foster youth who served as speakers on their experiences receiving support from the faith community and 10 SPA-based breakout sessions,

- which were facilitated by the co-chairs, members of the Faith Collaborative Steering Committee (faith partners), The Center, Commission for Children and Families and DCFS FBLs;
- On May 4, 2021, the Consultant, Faith-Based Program Manager, and DCFS Resource Family Outreach and Recruitment met with the LA Archdiocese to increase Catholic Church support for Latino youth and families receiving services from DCFS regional offices and specialized programs. The LA Archdiocese agreed to share resource and adoptive parent information with their parishes in LA County. They are also active participants in the LA County Faith Collaborative and previously facilitated a virtual break-out session at the Faith Leaders in Motion event lead by Azusa Pacific University (APU) held on May 20, 2021;
 - As of June 2021, DCFS faith partners are participants in the Families First Preservation Services Act (FFPSA) Workgroups to ensure the voice of the faith community was integrated;
 - On June 30, 2021, the second LA County Faith Collaborative was held virtually. The agenda included two former foster youth speakers and a presentation on Care First and Community Investment funding (formerly known as Measure J) to share funding opportunities with faith-based organizations that provide specified support services for foster youth;
 - On August 18, 2021, the Consultant, the Faith-Based Program Manager, LGBTQ+ Program Manager, and an affirming faith partner, had an initial meeting to increase faith-based support for LGBTQ+ youth and families. Ongoing planning and collaboration continues on outreach and recruitment for Affirming Ministries to increase faith-based support for LGBTQ+ youth and families. An Affirming Ministry recruitment event is planned for 2022;
 - On August 12, 2021, an LA County Faith Collaborative Subcommittee meeting was held to engage in discussions on Capacity Building and Training, Performance Data, Outcomes and Communications and Outreach. Breakout sessions were held and facilitated by LA County Faith Collaborative Co-Chairs Pastor Dan Broyles, Dr. Erica Holmes, and Gerry McDaniel. The subcommittees will continue to meet and develop projects that will support the implementation of LAC FIM;
 - On September 28, 2021, LA County Board Supervisor Hahn provided an adjournment in honor of the untimely passing of LA County Faith Collaborative Co-Chair Gerry McDaniel. For over ten years, Mr. McDaniel was a trailblazer who served as a DCFS volunteer and championed the inclusion of the faith community as a vital partner in supporting youth and families. Mr. McDaniel's staunch advocacy and driving force in the South Bay

Faith Council earned him the honor of receiving a DCFS Volunteer of the Year Award from the Board of Supervisors. There was no task too difficult for Mr. McDaniel. As a Co-Chair of the LA County Faith Collaborative, he excitedly accepted the invitation to participate in the DCFS FFPSA Communications Workgroup, attend FBL Roundtables, facilitate convening with faith partners, participate in regional office events, and assist families with reunification among other tasks. Mr. McDaniel was unstoppable in his determination as an invaluable DCFS faith partner committed to outstanding service and will be greatly missed.

- On September 29, 2021, the third LA County Faith Collaborative meeting was held virtually. The immeasurable contributions made by Mr. McDaniel were recognized during opening remarks, including a prayer to acknowledge and respect his faith. The LA County Child Protection Hotline presented on the screening process for calls received on suspected child abuse and/or neglect. In addition, a presentation was made on the Risk Stratification Project, which enhances supervision and connections to resources to ensure children are safe and families receive the services needed. Breakout sessions were held to provide the attendees an opportunity to engage in discussion regarding the information shared;
- On October 7, 2021, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager attended an Interfaith Taskforce meeting comprised of various faith, interfaith, and community based organizations. Goodwill of Orange and San Diego Counties presented on opportunities for partnering and resources. The Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager will continue working with the Interfaith Taskforce to continue diversifying faith partners in the LA County Faith Collaborative; and
- The Consultant continues to regularly engage with DCFS, the Center and the Commission for Children and Families. Additional philanthropic support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Specialty Family Foundation and Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has been provided to keep the Consultant onboard to assist with implementation efforts through Dec 31, 2021.

➤ **Identified Promising Pilot Programs via a Landscape Analysis**

- The Consultant and Faith-Based Program Manager have continued to work with DCFS, The Center and the Commission for Children and Families on hosting convenings to engage with FBOs, faith leaders, foster youth, DCFS Regional Offices, administrators, staff, the community, all five Supervisorial Districts and other relevant stakeholders to inform and develop promising pilot programs based on the regional needs identified in each district. This

- includes programs such as resource family recruitment, respite care, cultural brokers, prevention and aftercare and other supportive services;
- The African-American Community Engagement (ACE) Project, based in Pomona, California, is an example of a promising Faith-Based model. The project has been successful in utilizing Community Cultural Brokers to provide resources and support services to African-American families;
 - Starting in January 2021, Faith Foster Families Network (3FN) began conducting a four-part monthly Education and Volunteer Engagement virtual series to engage the community in the area of foster care awareness by promoting education and recruitment on topics pertaining to foster youth and resource/adoptive parents. DCFS successfully participated and supported the virtual series;
 - As of May 2021, OYC provided a youth leader intern to participate in the LAC Faith Collaborative Steering Committee meetings. The Center for Strategic Partnerships provides a stipend to compensate the youth leader intern as a Subject Matter Expert to inform workgroups, policy and practice change;
 - On May 20, 2021, in recognition of National Foster Care Awareness Month, faith partners, Azusa Pacific University Seminary (APU) and Nehemiah Project LA collaborated with DCFS to host a Faith Leaders in Motion (virtual event). As a result of this event, a joint project is in progress between APU and Nehemiah Project LA to establish specialized housing opportunities for transition age youth who attend APU. A second faith-based event lead by APU is planned in 2022, focused on the role of the faith community in healing family trauma;
 - As of July 2021, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager began participating in the Antelope Valley Transformation Collaborative targeting SPA 1 communities to promote better outcomes for families receiving services from the DCFS Palmdale and Lancaster Regional Offices;
 - On July 17, 2021, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager met with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to establish a promising partnership with the Faith Collaborative. CASA will be presenting at the LA County Faith Collaborative meeting on December 9, 2021;
 - On September 1, 2021, DCFS successfully extended the non-financial Partnership Agreement with CarePortal until August 31, 2022. CarePortal is a technology platform used to mobilize FBOs to respond and meet identified needs of DCFS children and families. The CarePortal project has been successfully launched in 11 regional offices in SPAs 1, 2, 3 and 6. The CarePortal Project is on schedule to roll out to the remaining SPAs during 2022, targeting vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - On October 25, 2021, the Consultant and the Faith-Based Program Manager attended an Aid to Humanity event hosted by Iglesia Ni Cristo (Filipino for

Church of Christ). Supervisors Solis and Kuehl honored DCFS with Board Supervisor Scrolls in acknowledgement of efforts and services to children, parents, families and the affairs of the community. A donation was presented to DCFS in recognition for the Department's work to support vulnerable children and families. DCFS and LAPD Rampart Division were invited to join a collaborative event in March 2022 to support Asian Pacific Islander families in need of support.

➤ **Developed Appropriate Measurements and Assessed Data Collection Methods**

- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant distributed a voluntary COVID-19 Impact Survey to the Faith-Based Taskforce in May 2020. The results highlighted employment and economic need concerns about the impact on racial minorities, increased need for tangible goods and resources, immigration service demands, and mental health instability as high priority;
- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will continue to develop appropriate measurements and data collection methods for analysis and will continue to work with DCFS leadership and staff to identify and implement best practices and strategies that enhance faith community partnerships and improve outcomes for children and families;
- DCFS will further engage communities through Invest LA initiatives by establishing Communities of Hope, participating in community-defined projects, and exploring opportunities to inform communities in all SPAs about the efforts to develop a faith-based engagement framework for foster youth;
- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will conduct data and performance outcomes workgroup sessions with the diverse stakeholders, including CBOs and FBOs to discuss assets and challenges, co-design data collection methods for qualitative and quantitative data, and establish plans for improving prevention, permanency and timely access to culturally responsive supports. The goals of these workgroup sessions are to identify relevant data to create system-wide understanding of issues/priorities and to monitor progress;
- In December of 2021, a second Faith-Based Questionnaire for DCFS Regional Offices will be conducted and will be compared with the previous Faith-Based Questionnaire conducted in May 2019; and
- The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant will work with the DCFS Research Section, Program Development Office, Business Information Systems Division, and Resource Family Recruitment and Approval Division to inform measurable outcome strategies and data tracking methods.

➤ **Created a Centralized Faith-Based Section within DCFS,**

- On January 31, 2020, the Faith-Based Section Program Manager was on-boarded. Due to the Countywide hiring freeze and budgetary conservation efforts, the acquisition of additional staff has been temporarily suspended. The goal of the section is to ultimately expand to include a team of subordinate programmatic and support staff;
- As of March 2020, strategies for faith-based engagements were modified to virtual meetings;
- Various strategies will be employed to inform the development of a phased implementation plan of the LAC FIM that will occur over the next three years. These strategies include, but are not limited to, virtual meetings with Regional Administrators and their staff to assess internal capacity and identify needs to ensure that the Faith-Based Section can effectively support and guide engagement of the local faith communities on a consistent and ongoing basis. In part, the implementation will focus on expanding partnerships with philanthropy and working with the LA County Faith Collaborative (Faith Collaborative) target areas of need, particularly South Los Angeles, Antelope Valley and East Los Angeles;
- Beginning in January 2021, FBLs monthly meetings have been held to educate, train and prepare for the implementation of the LAC FIM. The Faith-Based Program Manager and the Consultant are working closely with the FBLs to create a toolkit of documents and templates for a LAC FIM FBLs Handbook to establish a uniform method of documenting and tracking faith engagement activities;
- In addition, the Faith-Based Section Program Manager is working with the Office of Equity's LGBTQ+ Program Manager to identify affirming ministry support and resources to expand faith-based partnerships and provide resources to better address the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning families and youth;
- The Consultant is working with the Faith-Based Section Program Manager to coordinate outreach efforts that will increase diverse Faith-Based engagement at the Regional Office level. Input by diverse stakeholders including faith leaders, philanthropy, community organizations and other faith partners will be used to develop an outreach plan to support long-term sustainability of the DCFS Faith-Based Section; and
- Outreach efforts with non-DCFS stakeholders have included FBOs, philanthropy, CBOs, County departments and other leaders. Focused engagement is underway to expand the interfaith partnerships and develop better relationships with leaders of various denominations with large networks throughout LA County.

CONCLUSION

We thank the Board for its continued support and commitment to ensuring the overall well-being and self-sufficiency of youth in foster care as well as our ongoing engagement with the faith community to provide specified support services for foster youth. This concludes our final report based on the completion and accomplishments reported on the directives outlined in the Board's Motion, along with the ongoing commitment from the faith-based community in partnering with DCFS.

DCFS will continue to actively engage with faith-based leaders and organizations, as well as the Center to collaborate on implementing the Los Angeles County Faith in Motion LAC FIM strategies.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me, or your staff may also contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

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