

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER  
AND SUPERVISOR HILDA SOLIS**

**DECEMBER 4, 2018**

**INCREASE STABILITY AND PERMANENCY FOR TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH**

The Board of Supervisors has adopted a series of recommendations aimed to improve the outcomes for youth in our foster care system. Many of these have focused on self-sufficiency efforts to help youth reach their full potential through educational attainment, quality employment, stable housing, and social and emotional well-being. Two recent reports to address the needs of Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) have been recently submitted to the Board in response to this issue. The first, entitled, "Los Angeles County Centralized Transitional Aged Youth Hub," was submitted by the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with the Office of Child Protection, Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department, and other county departments and agencies.

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It was presented in July to the Board, which then unanimously approved a motion to move forward with the development of a resource hub to provide youth, caregivers, social workers, and other advocates access to available programs and services in their local communities.

Simultaneously, the Office of Child Protection has been diligently working to address long-term needs of foster youth by considering strategies to ensure youth are connected to safe and nurturing permanent homes. The need for permanent placements has been further exemplified by a recent nationwide data study released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation titled "Fostering Youth Transitions." The study showed that young people transitioning from foster care lag behind their peers in almost all indicators, including high school completion, stable employment, and entry into homelessness. It further indicates that among older teens in foster care, more than half age out of the system without being reunited or connected to a family member.

Knowing all young people need the ongoing love and mentoring of an adult, the County's first goal for foster youth should be to find a stable placement either with relatives, reunified with their birth parents, or within an adoptive foster home. To support these efforts and further address the needs of TAY, the Office of Child Protection recently submitted a companion report, "Supporting Permanency for Foster and Probation Youth." This report recommended a multi-year countywide strategy focusing on efforts to achieve permanent placements for foster and probation youth so they are not emancipating out of the system without a stable adult in their life.

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Moving forward with the companion efforts of the Chief Executive Office and the Office of Child Protection, the County can further improve the overarching continuum of support necessary to reduce the number of TAY in the system who will age out, while at the same time increasing the self-sufficiency for those TAY who remain until emancipation.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Child Protection, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office, the Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department, Department of Mental Health, Juvenile Court, legal advocates, and other external and internal stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase permanency for system-involved youth. The plan and an implementation timeline should be submitted in writing to the Board within 180 days, and should also include data indicators and a proposal to track progress of these efforts through a reduction in the number of youth aging out of the system.

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