

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER  
AND JANICE HAHN

APRIL 16, 2019

**ENSURING SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT**

In Los Angeles County, approximately 35,000 youth are involved in the child welfare system, with approximately 17,000 in out-of-home care. California’s implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform on January 1, 2017, combined with The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), a federal law aiming to reform the child welfare financing streams, provides challenges and opportunities for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation, Department of Mental Health (DMH), along with other impacted County departments. Both laws aim to take a fresh look at providing prevention and aftercare services for youth in the delinquency and dependency systems.

The FFPSA was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018, and is set to be fully implemented by October 2021. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The law aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

**- M O R E -**

**MOTION**

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

Per the motion of February 19, 2019, the Board supports a multi-year transition period to ensure the successful transition from the Title IV-E waiver to FFPSA. Consistent with this direction DCFS has taken encouraging steps in addressing how to best comply with this new federal regulation by forming and joining workgroups that seek to interpret the law and how existing DCFS programs and services can continue to serve youth and families.

As a continuation of this effort, **WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of DCFS to:

1. Provide quarterly written or verbal reports in collaboration with Probation and DMH, updating the Board on progress on the implementation of the FFPSA until October 2021, including the necessary steps to ensuring that existing programs and services are confirmed as, or transformed into, evidence based programs; and
2. Work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), County Counsel, Probation, DMH, and the Center for Strategic Partnerships, to determine if additional staffing is needed to successfully implement FFPSA.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the:

1. CEO, in collaboration with DCFS and Probation, to identify legislative and regulatory policies necessary for successful implementation of FFPSA, including, as appropriate, a multi-year period of transition from the waiver to FFPSA and advocacy efforts to ensure programs with evidentiary basis implemented in Los Angeles are included in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse; and
2. Office of Child Protection, and Departments of Probation, Mental Health, Public Health, Children and Family Services, and any other impacted County departments to participate in FFPSA implementation, including DCFS-led workgroups and consider input from subject matter experts in the field regarding evidence-based programs.

**# # #**