

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER
AND HILDA SOLIS

May 14, 2019

Directing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to Support Faith-Based Consultant

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 in numerous ways. However, the strength and effectiveness of these partnerships has ebbed and flowed as resources and leadership (both departmental and religious) has changed over the years. They also have not always been realized equitably across Los Angeles' diverse geographies, faiths, DCFS offices, and communities. As a result, the faith community collectively represents a largely under tapped resource for a broad range of services and supports for children and families.

- M O R E -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

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.

On September 25, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center) and 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 in a consultant to achieve the following goals:
 - a. Collaborate with key County departments, partner organizations, and stakeholders to develop a strategic and coordinated framework to successfully engage the faith-based community; and
 - b. 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 guide promising practices for future initiatives; and

-M O R E-

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 partner organizations. If so, make recommendations as to size and scope and explore options for funding, with recommendations included during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 budget cycle.

The written report back dated March 26, 2019, detailed the need for a faith-based consultant and proposed seeking philanthropic investments and partnerships to support the 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, including recruitment and retention of prospective resource families. The ideal consultant is competent in interfaith collaboration, and will also 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.

-M O R E-

Subsequently, on March 1, 2019, the Center and DCFS convened 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. The estimated cost for the consultant contract is \$150,000 for 18 months of work. Southern California Grantmakers, the fiscal agent for the Center, will hold the funds and contract with the consultant.

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and Specialty Family Foundation have each committed \$10,000 in funding and the Center is seeking an additional \$30,000 from other foundations for a total of \$50,000 from the private sector. To ensure the consultant's success, there is a need for the County to also invest in funding the contract. Funds are available through the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS) award that DCFS received from the State to engage in innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and support resource families, a key component of the faith-based engagement work. The consultant will work with DCFS, the Center, philanthropy, and key stakeholders to continue to move the faith-based engagement work, including work in the area of recruitment and retention of resource families, forward. DCFS plans to implement the consultant's recommendations as part of their coordinated faith-based program.

-M O R E-

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to:

1. Enter into a funding agreement with the Center for Strategic partnership for \$100,000 from the FPRRS award to co-invest in hiring a faith-based consultant; and,
2. Work with the Center to include updates on the consultant's progress in their reports related to the September 25, 2018 Board motion.

#

SUP:KB:mbj

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER
AND HILDA SOLIS

May 14, 2019

**Directing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to Support
Faith-Based Consultant**

CATEGORIES: (Please check those that apply)

- 1. Child Welfare
- 2. Community and Youth Empowerment
- 3. County Services
- 4. Economic Justice
- 5. Economic and Workforce Development
- 6. Education
- 7. Environment
- 8. Fiscal
- 9. Governance
- 10. Health
- 11. Homelessness
- 12. Immigration
- 13. Public Safety
- 14. Social Justice and Human Rights
- 15. Technology and Data