

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JULY 16, 2019

REVIEW ON THE DEATH OF NOAH C.

The death of any child in our County is heartbreaking. The death of 4-year old Noah C. is currently under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD).

His death demands a thorough review of the facts to have a more comprehensive understanding of the case. The Office of Child Protection (OCP) was designed to be a way to transform our child welfare system and ensure an integrated approach to child protection.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to oversee a review of the investigation into the death of Noah C. by the OCP and report back in 45 days on the following:

1. An assessment of the various interactions that any agencies may have had with the family of Noah C. and identify any potential systemic issues or recommendations for modifying and/or strengthening services to optimally protect the health and well-being of children;

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2. An update on the new pilot program in Palmdale and Lancaster which co-locates social workers with law enforcement agencies to increase cross training and coordination of joint responses and investigations of child abuse reports;
3. An update on the ongoing collaboration between law enforcement, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the District Attorney's office to enhance and improve the utility of the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (ESCARS), with recommendations as appropriate;
4. An update on the assessment of the existing use of the medical hubs countywide, including efficacy of services and effective collaboration between the Departments of Health, Mental Health, Public Health, and Children and Family Services to support the needs of children and families involved in child protective services; and,
5. In collaboration with DCFS, Health, and Mental Health, an update on staffing and resources available in the Antelope Valley understanding the unique nature of the region and previous barriers experienced.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to collaborate with DCFS to identify positions that are experiencing recruitment and retention challenges in the Antelope Valley DCFS regional offices and provide recommendations to address them, including financial incentives such as a pay differential and bonuses.

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