



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
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September 26, 2019

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TO: CELIA ZAVALA  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS  
Litigation Cost Manager  
Executive Office

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**  
**County Claims Board Recommendation**  
**J.C. v. Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family**  
**Services, et al. and T.L.C., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC 615628**

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:vc

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled J.C. v. Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, et al. and T.L.C., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC 615628 in the amount of \$800,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Children and Family Services' budget.

These consolidated lawsuits concern allegations of sexual abuse of minor children while in foster care.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	J.C. v. Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, et al. T.L.C., et al., v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC615628
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 1, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Tom Cifarelli, Esq. The Cifarelli Law Firm Alex Rosenberg, Esq. Rosenberg Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessie Lee Deputy County Counsel David J. Weiss, Esq. Law Offices of David J. Weiss George Chuang, Esq. George Chuang & Associates
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs claim they were sexually and physically abused by their foster/adoptive mother and her biological children.  Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$800,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 62,141
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,507

Case Name: J.C./T.L.C., et al. vs. COLA, et al.



### Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	2000 through 2014
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiffs allege their civil rights were violated when DCFS negligently investigated allegations of child sexual and physical abuse in foster care, resulting in years of ongoing abuse. Plaintiffs also allege that DCFS breached its mandatory duties.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

- A. The involved DCFS staff persons did not adhere to established standards or follow the protocols in place when conducting child welfare investigations;
- B. Line managers did not adhere to established standards of supervision when reviewing/approving the work of subordinate social work staff.


2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

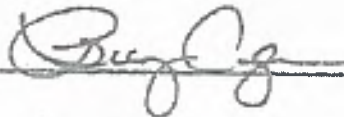
- A. The Department had relevant policies and procedures in effect at the time of the incident and continues to ensure that its protocols assist its workforce in providing appropriate and legally-sufficient child welfare services. Relevant training has been made more accessible to social work staff persons and a mechanism for tracking completion of such trainings has been implemented;

B. In 2018, the Department commissioned a robust and comprehensive administrative review which revealed a number of concerns in the handling of child abuse investigations involving the Plaintiffs as children. Administrative action is pending and/or yet to be determined.

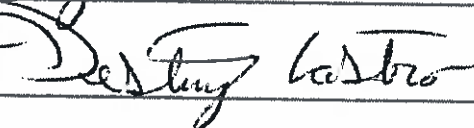
3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

- The corrective actions address department-wide system issues  
 The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director	
Signature: 	Date: 7/3/19

Name: (Department Head)	
BOBBY D. CAGLE, DIRECTOR 	
Signature:	Date: 7/3/19

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Destiny Castro	
Signature: 	Date: 7/9/2019