

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

July 13, 2021

Increasing Foster Care Placement Resources for African American Children

It is generally understood that when children live with a loving, stable, and permanent family that nurtures and protects them, they are more likely to be healthy and self-sufficient as adults. One of the most pressing challenges in caring for children in the foster care system is the identification, recruitment, assessment, approval, support, and retention of families that can provide stable and supportive homes, also known as resource homes. This is especially significant for African American children who are disproportionately represented in out-of-home care and remain in care for longer periods of time. Further, placement of African American children in resource homes within their community helps to maintain familiar connections and supports their well-being. The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) currently oversees services for over 5,800 African American children in out-of-home care; increasing placement resources for dependent children in their communities is critical.

DCFS engages in innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and support resource families utilizing available funding sources. On May 9, 2017, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a [motion](#) instructing DCFS to use a portion of its then available

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Foster Parent Recruitment Retention and Support award dollars from the State to help fund a first-of-its-kind Resource Family Recruitment Convening. This event gave rise to the creation of the Faith Foster Families Network (3FN), a coalition of six faith-based institutions that have committed, as a project of Community Partners, to supporting the recruitment and retention of resource families for African American children.

DCFS should continue to grow its partnership with 3FN as a trusted faith-based partner, with deep community roots, to support effective efforts to increase and support placement resources for African American children. The mission of 3FN is to provide resources, well-being and safety for families and children impacted by the child welfare system. 3FN employs strategies to raise awareness and engage individuals and families in serving as resource families through education, tangible resource distribution, human support and recruitment. 3FN has demonstrated the ability to successfully recruit and support resource families through its “Fostering Home Events”. By collectively representing at least 45,000 individuals, 3FN is uniquely positioned with an existing pool of human resources to further increase foster care awareness within the South Los Angeles faith community, develop effective outreach materials, support the recruitment of new resource homes and promote the adoption of African American children.

I THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or his designee, in consultation with County Counsel, to enter into a funding agreement with Community Partners for a period of six months, and up to \$43,000 from AB 2129 (Bass – Foster Care: Residentially Based Services) funds, to partner with and support Faith Foster Families Network resource parent recruitment in SPA 6 and SPA 8 (Inglewood, Gardena/Hawthorne).

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2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, in consultation with County Counsel, to amend the funding agreement as necessary to accommodate service needs .

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