County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

DAVID SANDERS, Ph.D.
Director

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February 17, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: David Sanders, Ph. D.
Director

NOVEMBER 15, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #36-C: MANDATED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TRAINING FOLLOWING CHILD DEATH – SARAH C.

Introduction

At the November 15, 2005 Board meeting, the Board directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in collaboration with the Department of Health Services (DHS), to report back to the Board in 90 days with a plan to establish a mandatory training program with public and private hospitals and clinic staff, which would review the required mandatory child abuse/neglect reporting laws in place. What follows is the plan that DCFS developed to ensure the training of hospital staff and medical professionals in Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements.

Action Taken

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office (DA), formed the ICAN Protocol Workgroup. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from the DCFS, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), Los Angeles Police Department, Independent Police Chief's Association, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, County Counsel and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The ICAN Protocol Workgroup developed an outreach plan to train and implement countywide the Los Angeles County Mandated Abuse Reporting Protocol ("Protocol"), a 172 page document, which can be accessed at the ICAN-NFCR.org website or at ICAN@co.la.ca.us. The ICAN Protocol Workgroup also created four PowerPoint trainings, individualized for health care professionals and other mandated reporters.

The contents of the Protocol includes a list of mandated reporters; the investigative process after the report is received; obligations of cross reporting, child death investigations, follow up investigations and case management; special areas of concern;

details necessary for a medical examination; victim services; legal proceedings and further training opportunities.

ICAN and the DA's Office have provided Protocol trainings at all Los Angeles County Public Hospitals, all Comprehensive Health Centers, all Clinics and all Public Health Centers. Managers, supervisors and all concerned staff were invited to attend the training. Staff was also provided with the opportunity to participate as a "Train the Trainer" in order to train colleagues at their work site. The ICAN Protocol Workgroup has been and will continue to provide training and/or assist agencies in securing appropriate training countywide. DCFS will continue to work closely with the ICAN Protocol Workgroup and the District Attorney's Office to provide training to both public and private hospitals, clinics and staff.

DCFS has contacted DHS, the American Hospital Association and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) to develop a list of all hospitals and clinics. Each hospital and clinic will be contacted individually to determine the status of its training and, if incomplete, whether it requests training by County staff or will contract with private providers to complete training. DCFS will continue to engage with ICAN, DHS, the DA's Office, American Hospital Association and CCALAC on a monthly basis to monitor the status of training.

To date, five county hospitals and one private hospital have completed training on the protocol. These are LAC-USC, Martin Luther King, Harbor-UCLA, Rancho Los Amigos, Olive View and Garfield Medical Center.

Summary and Conclusion

The assurance of child safety depends upon the eyes and ears of the community. DCFS remains committed to ensuring that all hospital and clinic staff receives mandated child abuse and neglect reporting training, and sincerely thanks the Board for its support of this very important endeavor. Within the next 90 days, DCFS will submit another progress report on the implementation of the above-detailed plan, which will include an itemized list of hospitals and clinics, training dates for each and the number or participants at each training.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me at, or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager at (213) 351-5530.

DS:CS:ml

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Board Executive Officer