

Adopt the Recommendations in the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection and Establish a Transition Team to Monitor Implementation of the Recommendations

After nine months of investigation and public hearings, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection has issued its report along with recommendations that will lead the effort to reform the child protection system. The recommendations are feasible, practical and will improve child safety.

Accomplishing structural reform within the child protection system will steer the County of Los Angeles into a new era of providing services that will embrace a child-centered philosophy. Fundamental changes to department policies, increased training, investigations of referrals regarding child abuse and neglect, and increased oversight are critical to child protection and reforming the system to better serve children and ultimately reduce child fatalities.

Achieving a paradigm shift in the child protection system is a long-term proposition. Exactly one year ago this month, the Board of Supervisors voted to create the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection. The Commission was tasked with conducting a review of previously delayed or failed efforts to implement reforms and provide recommendations for a feasible plan of action to expeditiously implement much

MOTION

Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Antonovich _____

Knabe _____

needed reforms.

In April, the Commission released a report containing over 40 recommendations for reform. The most unique recommendation is to create the Office of Child Protection to ensure far greater independent monitoring of child protection services among all the County departments that provide child protection services. These recommendations reflect a thoughtful and comprehensive analysis of over 700 prior Board-approved recommendations, witness testimony made available to the Commission from leaders in the child welfare field and stakeholders, review of child fatality case reports, and review of best practices in the field of child welfare.

The Board of Supervisors has a fundamental role in implementing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection. Only the Board of Supervisors can ensure that these recommendations, which cross a wide array of County departments, are implemented in a timely and effective manner.

Implementation of the recommendations—which cannot be achieved solely by the departments—requires the restoration of long-term integrity to child protection services. Implementation of the recommendations requires partnering by the Board of Supervisors.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the recommendations in the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection.
2. Establish a Transition Team to monitor implementation of the recommendations, upon adoption by the Board, contained in the Commission's report of April 2014.
3. The Transition Team should be comprised of 11 members:
 - a. Five (5) members chosen by the Board of Supervisors; and,

- b. Three (3) representatives from the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection; and,
 - c. A representative from Juvenile Court; and,
 - d. A representative from the Chief Executive Office; and,
 - e. A representative from the County Counsel with subject matter expertise in child welfare.
4. Direct the CEO and other relevant County departments who provide child protection services to collaborate with the Transition Team to prioritize implementation of the recommendations.
 5. Request that the Transition Team provide formal advice to the Board regarding recommendations for child safety, until the new, overarching Office of Child Protection is created to act as a unified coordinating entity.
 6. The Transition Team would be responsible for the coordination of recruitment efforts for the position of Executive Director of the Office of Child Protection.
 7. Once created, the Office of Child Protection is to establish a critical pathway for the provision of child protection services in the County of Los Angeles, including but not limited to, developing one Countywide strategic plan, defining program outcomes and measures of success, streamlining of processes for greater efficiency, along with a timeline of major milestones.
 8. Request that the Transition Team report back to the Board of Supervisors each month, beginning August 5, 2014, on the status of implementing the recommendations, and request that the Chair of the Board place this matter as a set item on the regular agenda.

MR/sf