

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KUEHL AND SOLIS

January 13, 2015

On June 25, 2013, in the wake of the tragic death of 8 year old Gabriel F, this Board approved a motion by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Michael D. Antonovich to create a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Child Protection. Tasked with providing recommendations to reform our child welfare system and improve child safety, the BRC released their final report in April 2014.

Since then, the Transition Team, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Departments of Children and Family Services, Health, Public Health, Mental Health, Sheriff, Probation, Public Social Services, County Counsel, as well as the Dependency Court, Los Angeles County Office of Education, First 5 LA, and various other involved departments and commissions have worked to move forward on many of the 60 recommendations.

One recommendation is to articulate a countywide mission to improve child safety—not simply as a guiding principle, but an urgent call to all County departments underscoring child welfare as a top priority for Los Angeles County. As described by the BRC in its final report, the mission statement should reflect a system that:

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

- Is committed to the safety, permanency and well-being of children;
- Is integrated, child-centered and family-focused;
- Ensures that relevant County entities work together, creating a joint strategic plan to benefit children;
- Is committed to a continuum of care that is both preventive and provides long-term support; and,
- Is informed by research and best practices.

As a preface to the mission statement, it is important to highlight the guiding principle that all children in the County have the opportunity to be raised in a safe and nurturing environment with support that can help them reach their full potential. Such a preface should also reflect the workplace values of the Board—specifically, its desire to transform the child welfare system from a culture of fear, blame and silos to one of respect for professionals in the field, learning, collaboration, shared leadership and accountability, excellence and transparency.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Interim CEO work with the Board of Supervisors and all involved departments, in consultation with the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection, to report back within 30 days with a proposed County mission statement on child safety for Board adoption, consistent with the recommendation made by the Blue Ribbon Commission.