

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer



**DATE:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021  
**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:**

**Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#**  
**[MS Teams Meeting Link](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link)**

### AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

#### I. NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION

**CS-1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Existing Litigation 1:30PM**  
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(1)  
Valentine, et al v. County of Los Angeles  
Department of Children and Family Services

#### II. Call to Order

#### III. Presentation/Discussion Items:

- a. **Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect:** Request to Approve Two Contracts for Family Visitation Centers and Safe Child Custody Exchange Services.
- b. **Department of Children and Family Services:** Request Approval for an Agreement with the California Department of Social Services to Provide Legal Services Associated with the Resource Family Approval Program.

IV. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.

V. Public Comment

VI. Adjournment

# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE  
Executive Director

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**IL MEMBERS**  
KATHLEEN ALLISON  
Secretary, California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation

AUSTIN BEUTNER  
Superintendent, LA Unified School District

ROB BONTA  
California Attorney General

BOBBY CAGLE  
Director, Children and Family Services

SHERRI R. CARTER  
Executive Officer/Clerk, Superior Court

RODRIGO A. CASTRO-SILVA  
County Counsel

FESIA DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer

DEBRA DUARDO, MSW, Ed.D  
Superintendent, Office of Education

BARBARA FERRER, PH.D., MPH, MEd  
Director, Department of Public Health

MIKE FEUER  
Los Angeles City Attorney

NORMA E. GARCIA  
Director, Parks and Recreation

RICARDO D. GARCIA  
Public Defender

GEORGE GASCON  
District Attorney

CHRISTINA GHALY, MD  
Director, Health Services

ADOLFO GONZALES  
Chief Probation Officer

VICTOR GREENBERG  
Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court

SELWYN HOLLINS  
Director, Internal Services

ANTONIA JIMENEZ  
Director, Public Social Services

KIM JOHNSON  
Director, California Department of Social Services

KEITH KAUFFMAN  
President, Police Chiefs Association  
Chief, Redondo Beach Police Department

JONATHAN LUCAS, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

MICHEL MOORE  
Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

FRANCE NUYEN  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

DARYL OSBY  
Fire Chief, Forester and Fire Warden

SKYE PATRICK  
County Librarian, Public Library

CHARLES ROBBINS  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

EMILIO SALAS  
Executive Director, Los Angeles County  
Development Authority

JONATHAN E. SHERIN, MD, Ph.D.  
Director, Mental Health

OTTO SOLORZANO  
Acting Director, Workforce Development, Aging  
and Community Services

LILIA A. VARGAS  
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

ALEX VILLANUEVA  
Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CLAUDIA WANG, MD  
UCLA Health System SCAN Team

TRACY WILKISON  
Acting United States Attorney

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### REQUEST TO APPROVE TWO CONTRACTS FOR FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE SERVICES (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

### SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests the Board's approval to execute two contracts with El Nido Family Centers (El Nido) and Grace Resource, Inc. (GR), for the provision of Family Visitation Centers and Safe Child Custody Exchange (FVC/SCCE) services, beginning October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute contracts, substantially similar to that in Attachment A, with El Nido and GR for the FVC/SCCE services, effective October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, with the County's option to extend for four additional one-year periods. The maximum annual contract sum is \$138,380 for each contract and the total annual amount for both contracts is \$276,760. The Maximum Contract Sum for one base year and four option years will be \$1,383,800, using 100% AB 2994 funds.



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## County of Los Angeles



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Executive Director

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to exercise the four one-year extension options of each contract by amendment or written notice provided: a) sufficient funding is available, b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments, and c) DCFS notifies the Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) in writing, within 10 business days of execution.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to the contract to increase or decrease the Maximum Annual Contract Amount by no more than 10% of the original Maximum Contract Sum during the contract term, to accommodate any unanticipated increases or decreases in units of service provided that: a) sufficient funding is available for increases, b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments, and c) DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 business days of execution.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to the contract for programmatic changes to the Statement of Work, Terms and Conditions of the contract and any of its Exhibits provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to the execution of such amendments, and b) DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 business days of execution.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to terminate the contract for default provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to termination of the contract and b) DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 business days of such termination.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The current contracts with El Nido and GR will expire on September 30, 2021. The FVC/SCCE services have been implemented in two separate supervisorial districts through two non-profit community-based agencies, El Nido in the Third District and GR in the Fifth District. The program for FVCs designates local churches or community facilities where meaningful visits can take place between children in out-of-home care and their parents in a safe, child and family friendly environment. The child centers are a place where the parents can have monitored, supervised visitation with their children in a setting that is conducive to parent/child interaction. The Safe





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Executive Director

Custody Exchange Program assists parents in the transfer of their children from one to the other for visitation and/or custody. The program provides a safe environment within which custody exchanges can be done peacefully and without trauma to the children.

The program's FVCs are typically located in impact homes and at local faith based sites. The SCCEs occur at law enforcement agencies and/or safe locations within the community. Although the pandemic has directly affected the potential access to the sites, both agencies continue to ensure that custody exchanges and in-person and virtual visits take place between parents and children. GR provides on-site services and utilizes the Desert View Impact/Community House and Trend Impact/Community House as the current sites for in-person visits. The SCCE program takes place at the Los Angeles County Sheriff Station in Lancaster, Steve Owens Park and on-site at GR. El Nido will use the St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Reseda Church of Christ and Life Center as visitation sites. Additionally, El Nido will make their offices available for visitations and exchanges.

Additionally, GR allowed DCFS to utilize their office site for visits even for non-GR clients. This provided timely and critical support as the Children's Social Workers (CSW) were expressing a need for a safe indoor space since the regional offices were not open to the public, and commonly used businesses such as fast-food restaurants, were also closed for indoor use. Although many CSWs utilized parks in late spring for visits, summer temperatures in Antelope Valley made it prohibitive for most families to hold outdoor visits. GR generously offered their space to DCFS whenever it was not being used for one of their clients.

The DCFS Research Section completed an evaluation of FVC/SCCE in July 2020. The evaluation demonstrated that the families who received "coached" monitored visitation services through the FVC/SCCE programs had better outcomes in rates of reunification within 12 to 24 months and after 24 months. It also demonstrated positive outcomes in re-referrals and re-entry rates.

Parents report that the services support better communication and interaction with their children, more quality time with their children and more family respect. Additionally, families appreciate their Coach/Monitors and mention characteristics, such as understanding of the family's situation, acting with fairness and patience, being approachable and ready to help and that they are caring, listening, respectful, polite and non-judgmental.





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The FVC/SCCE programs are consistently held up as a most effective strategy to help maintain child-parent relationships in safe environments, assist in family reunification, reduce the time a child spends in out-of-home care and improve family functioning to avoid recidivism and future referrals to DCFS.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Both of these programs are important in terms of the County's strategic goals related to Children, Family and Adult Well-Being, Health and Mental Health and Public Safety. These programs promote meaningful Safe Exchange Programs that assist parents in the transfer of their children from one to the other for visitation or custody. They are typically designed for parents who are in conflict with one another or who have a history of domestic violence. The children of the families targeted for the Safe Child Custody Exchange Program can be quite traumatized by the conflicted relationship of their parents. Thus, Safe Exchange Programs are a recognized child abuse prevention approach.

The FVC/SCCE Programs have at their core a focus on keeping children safe while facilitating paths for connection to parents from whom they are separated either because they are in out-of-home care or their parents are separated with custody exchanges necessary in order for children to maintain a relationship with both of their parents. When visitation activities are linked to helping parents build protective capacities and change behaviors or conditions that caused children to be unsafe or at risk of future harm, children's well-being is enhanced.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$138,380 for each contract and the total projected annual amount for both contracts is \$276,760. The Maximum Contract Sum for one base year and four option years will be \$1,383,800, using 100% Assembly Bill (AB) 2994 funds. Funding is included in the 2021-22 Fiscal Year Adopted Budget. Funding will be requested in future proposed budget requests for the remaining contract terms.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In 1982, the Governor of California signed two bills into law, aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, AB 1733/Papan (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982), authorized the allocation of state funding to counties for child



# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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Executive Director

abuse prevention and intervention services offered by public and private, non-profit agencies.

The second law, AB 2994/Imbrecht (Chapter 1399, Statutes of 1982), established a County Children's Trust Fund for the purpose of funding child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private, nonprofit organizations. AB 2994 requires that \$4.00 of any fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate be paid to a County Children's Trust Fund.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 18967 directs the designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council in each County to develop and recommend funding priorities for the Children's Trust Fund to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) is the designated child abuse council.

All terms and conditions of the recommended contract have been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The FVC/SCCE programs were referred to ICAN by the Board offices for consideration of funding through AB 2994. As a result, ICAN engaged in its multi-disciplinary vetting process by forming a special ad hoc group comprised of key experts on child abuse from numerous County and City agencies including DCFS, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the Community Child Abuse Councils. This ad hoc group held a face-to-face meeting and engaged in an extensive discussion about the impact and value of the proposed services. After discussion and a process of follow-up emails and phone calls, the ad hoc group enthusiastically agreed to recommend these programs for funding, noting the significant need for family visitation services. Both programs also were approved by the ICAN Policy Committee.

As the designated child abuse council in Los Angeles County, ICAN is responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private non-profit organizations or public institutions to receive funding through AB 2994. The DCFS Contracts Administration Division is responsible for administering the contracts between





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the County and the private, non-profit community-based agencies providing specialized services funded by the County's Children's Trust Fund. The overall goal of this funding is to support child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment efforts and activities to help protect the families and children of Los Angeles County.

The new contracts are procured by negotiations for the period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. On April 28, 2021, ICAN notified the Board that DCFS intended to negotiate two sole source contracts with GR and El Nido.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Visitation between parents and their children who are in out-of-home care is important for maintaining family relationships and supporting goals for reunification or other permanency arrangements. It can alleviate some of the problems experienced by children when they are separated from their families, such as attachment disorders and fear of abandonment, and provide an opportunity to assess the impact of interventions designed to improve parenting skills and parent-child interactions.

The value of visiting has been amply supported by research, which has confirmed a direct correlation between visits and timely reunification. Research has also shown that frequency of visits is enhanced when neutral individuals monitor the visitation rather than the primary caseworker. Safe Exchange Programs protect children from exposure to their parents' conflicts. The investment in safe and supportive places for families to meet can begin the process of healing for all family members and assist in preventing intergenerational repeating of cycles of violence.

DCFS CSWs have come to rely heavily on these programs and not having these services available would create a significant hardship for DCFS staff and the families they serve.



**INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**  
**County of Los Angeles**



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Executive Director

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of the Board Letter and attachments to the Department of Children and Family Services and ICAN.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton Durfee".

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc.hc  
Executive Director  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

DTD:es

Attachments

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Bobby Cagle, Director, DCFS  
ICAN Policy Committee  
Children's Board Deputies  
Rodrigo A. Castro-Silva, County Counsel  
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors







**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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

BOBBY D. CAGLE  
Director

GINGER PRYOR  
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors  
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First District  
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Third District  
JANICE HAHN  
Fourth District  
KATHRYN BARGER  
Fifth District

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST APPROVAL FOR AN AGREEMENT  
WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROGRAM  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation) request the Board's approval to enter into a two-year Agreement (No. 21-5022) with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allow CDSS to continue to provide legal services to DCFS and Probation associated with the federally funded Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program.

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER – IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute Agreement Number 21-5022, (Attachment A), with DCFS, Probation and CDSS for a two-year Agreement term ending June 30, 2023, to allow CDSS to continue to provide legal consultation and legal representation services in administrative hearings; and complaint investigations for the RFA program. CDSS will release the General Fund RFA Allocation and DCFS shall use those funds to pay for contracted activities of this Agreement. DCFS shall use County 2011

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

Realignment Funds or other County funds for costs exceeding the General Fund RFA Allocation.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute a) amendments to extend each one-year renewal period, or b) renewal Agreements substantially similar to Attachment A. The maximum payable amount for each renewal period or new initial term may fluctuate and funds used for payments shall be withdrawn in the following order from State General Funds RFA Allocation, County's 2011 Realignment Funds and other County funds. Execution of amendments or Agreements is contingent upon the following: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments or renewal Agreement, and b) DCFS notifies the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in writing within 10 business days of such amendment or renewal Agreement.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments for a) necessary changes to the terms and conditions of this Agreement to meet programmatic needs, b) expansion of other services listed in the Agreement, but not identified as part of the original Agreement, and c) to terminate this Agreement for convenience or default provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments or termination, and b) DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 business days of such amendment or termination. Notification shall include any amendment resulting in an increase to the Maximum Amount Payable.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) legislation shifted the responsibility from CDSS to counties for approval of non-relative homes that care for dependent children and non-minor dependents. On August 1, 2017, the Board approved the initial Agreement Number 16-5024 between DCFS, Probation and CDSS, for CDSS to provide legal consultation and representation in administrative hearings as well as complaint investigations to the County. These services continued under renewal Agreement Number 19-5044. The recommended Agreement will allow CDSS to continue to provide the aforementioned services to the County. DCFS and Probation agreed that DCFS will sign the Agreement on behalf of both departments. CDSS will release the Annual General Fund Allocation to DCFS in the full amount and shall invoice DCFS quarterly for the services provided. DCFS and Probation agreed that DCFS will pay for all services rendered.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Assembly Bill 403 requires that all currently licensed foster family homes, approved caregivers and nonrelative extended family member homes must convert to RFA no later than December 31, 2019. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(g), implementation and operation of the RFA Program is the County's responsibility. However, to ease the counties' transition to the new RFA requirements, CDSS offered to provide certain components of the RFA program to the counties on an agreement basis. The RFA program operates under the provisions of California Government Code section 30029.7.

Resource family applicants who are not approved and receive a notice of a denial or exclusion, have the right to a State hearing and other due process rights as set forth in CDSS Written Directives Article 12 - Due Process and in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16519.5 et seq. The appeals hearings are heard by an administrative judge at the State Hearings Division, or by an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The RFA Program Written Directives Section 12-04 stipulates that prior to the service of notice for denial or exclusion of an individual, "The County shall consult with County attorney or CDSS Legal Division to confirm the proper hearing forum." For matters involving an exclusion action, a consultation with the CDSS Legal Division is required.

The RFA program Written Directives Section 12-02 stipulates that a county may enter into an Agreement with the CDSS Legal Division to provide legal consultation and legal representation related to RFA. The Legal Division may represent a county on matters heard by the State Hearings Division or the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Community Care Licensing Division discontinued conducting the complaint investigations, and DCFS and Probation do not have existing operational resources to comply with this mandate. This Board Letter was reviewed and approved by Probation and the Agreement was approved by County Counsel as to form.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategy I.1 - Increase Our Focus on Prevention Initiatives, Objective I.1.1 Promote Supportive Parenting: RFA means an applicant successfully meets the home environment assessment and permanency assessment standards of the State of California.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

These services will be directly funded through the State General Fund Allocation, as part of DCFS' CCR RFA Allocation. State General Fund RFA Allocation will be based on the historical data from prior Fiscal Years (FYs). The Agreement will be funded through the following sources and in the following order:

1. State General Funds RFA Allocation
2. County 2011 Realignment Funds; and
3. Other County funds.

State General Funds RFA Allocation must be exhausted prior to drawing down on other funds.

Funding is available in the Department's FY 2021-22 Final Adopted Budget and will be included in future budget requests.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

No contracting process was required in the preparation of this Agreement. If authorized by your Board, this Agreement will permit CDSS to continue to provide legal consultation and legal representation services in administrative hearings; family evaluations; complaint investigations and home, health and safety assessments in administrative actions related to RFA appeals to DCFS.

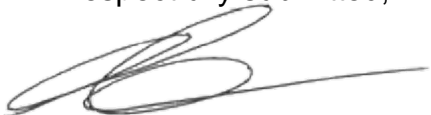
### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Approval of these recommendations will facilitate compliance with legal mandates and compliance with the RFA standards and will help to ensure that DCFS and Probation better serve the community by expediting the delivery of services to children and non-minor dependents who reside or may reside in an approved resource family home.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of the Board letter and attachments to the Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department.

Respectfully submitted,

 for

BOBBY D. CAGLE  
Director



ADOLFO GONZALES  
Chief Probation Officer

BDC:GP:CMM  
KDR:LTI:CP

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Probation Officer