

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA  
AND SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

April 14, 2009

On October 13, 1998, the Board adopted motion instructing all group home monitoring functions, including those handled by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department (Probation) be placed with the Auditor-Controller. At that time, the Board's primary concern was the 1996-97 Grand Jury report which cited several deficiencies in group homes. As a result, a Group Home Task Force was formed by the Board which recommended transferring the group home from DCFS to the Auditor-Controller.

As a result of the Board's actions, the Auditor-Controller established a Group Home Monitoring Unit, comprised of eight DCFS social workers supervised by Auditor-Controller employees. The Unit monitored approximately 150 group homes annually and issued the monitoring reports to this Board. It should be noted that in June 2005, DCFS began monitoring group home contractors on performance outcomes in the areas of child safety, permanency, and well-being.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

During these tough economic times, the County must maximize the use of its monitoring resources by consolidating the group home program monitoring under one department. DCFS recently indicated that the proper infrastructure and resources are now in place in order to assume full responsibility to effectively monitor group home contractors without the assistance of the Auditor-Controller. While I appreciate DCFS' eagerness to assume full monitoring responsibility, we should, however, incorporate some safeguards and protocols as we transition the function back to DCFS. In addition, it is imperative that this Board continues to be notified of the results of the monitoring reviews.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that DCFS, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller and the Chief Executive Office, transition the group home monitoring responsibility to DCFS. The transition should include the following:

1. Establishing a plan to transfer the DCFS social workers currently assigned to the Auditor-Controller back to DCFS for Fiscal Year 2009-2010; and
2. Developing a reporting process where DCFS notifies the Board on the results of the individual group home monitoring reviews and follow-ups.

IN ADDITION, I MOVE that the Auditor-Controller provide the Board with semi-annual status reports during the first two years that DCFS has sole responsibility for group home monitoring. The status reports should report on DCFS' efforts to effectively monitor the group home contractors' compliance with their County contract requirements. In addition, the reports should evaluate DCFS' efforts to follow up with the group home contractors to ensure that recommendations are appropriately implemented.

LO/ld