

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 6, 2010

Transforming Child Protective Information Systems

On April 1, 2010, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) issued a report titled, “Family and Children’s Index Replacement System Analysis and Recommendations”, which included several recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The report reflected approximately eight months of research and analysis conducted by the staff of the CEO, Chief Information Officer (CIO), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and County Counsel on other computer systems that could enhance or replace the FCI system and the benefits of improving information sharing. The CEO’s report made it clear legislative changes are the first step to effective protection of children through accessible data. The CEO’s report also made reference to 11 other systems utilized in other jurisdictions across the nation –from Alameda County to Allegheny County and from Nevada and Nebraska to New York-- that illustrate best practices. The LA County Commission on Children and Families’s ongoing work on the Child Health and Education Electronic Record (CHEER) provides

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an instructive example on how legal and other challenges can be addressed while still forcefully pursuing information systems reform.

Los Angeles County employees (from case workers and law enforcement officers to their supervisors and department heads) must be held accountable for the well being of children in County care. But in order to meet that responsibility they must have every piece of available information to get children in our custody and under our jurisdiction out of dangerous situations before it is too late. The CEO's recommendations serve as the first step in replacing the FCI system with one that provides immediate case information to an investigator, first responder, or others employed or engaged by the County of Los Angeles to protect the health, welfare and rights of children we are obliged to protect.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the CEO, in consultation with the CIO, County Counsel, and other County departments currently planning or developing information sharing initiatives to:
 - a. explore the feasibility of establishing an interagency information sharing system;
 - b. recommend steps to achieve these objectives within the boundaries of current federal and state laws, including funding requirements; and
 - c. evaluate the applicability of A.B. 2322 (Feuer, Bass) to establishing an interagency information sharing system.

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2. Instruct the CEO to report back to the Board every 30 days with a progress report, to include a timeline of key milestones.

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