

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

March 1, 2011

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH COUNTY DEPARTMENT CLUSTER RECONFIGURATION

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors delegated responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), under the current governance structure, for the general programmatic and fiscal administration, oversight and evaluation of the majority of County Departments. To perform these responsibilities, CEO established County Department clusters to categorically manage groupings of departments.

The CEO's governance structure, which has categorically placed DCFS in a Department Cluster separate and apart from the Department Cluster for Health, Public Health and Mental Health, has served to complicate rather than facilitate various DCFS service delivery innovations to advance IV-E Waiver priorities and comply with the County's five-year Katie A. Strategic Plan. These initiatives require inter-agency coordination through medical hubs, public health nurse consultations and clinical services to address mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence issues among children and families contributing to child abuse. However, issue-focused cross-cluster communication has rendered initiatives fragmented and bred undetected service and resource duplications.

M O R E

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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Considering the life and death implications for abused and neglected children, we must continue to place the highest priority on strengthening the child protection safety net by organically fostering coordinated inter-agency service delivery; achieving cost-efficiencies through eliminated redundancies; and blending and leveraging scarce and shrinking public dollars. By aligning the direct-service County Departments vitally relevant to child welfare without arbitrarily placing any additional bureaucratic layers between them, we must continue to strive for increasingly effective management of our responsibility to protect Los Angeles County's abused and neglected children and to strengthen their families.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directs the Chief Executive Officer to report back in one week on making all necessary arrangements to re-assign the Department of Children and Family Services from the Child and Family Well-Being Cluster to the Health Services Cluster.

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MDA:hbb

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