

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



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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE  
Executive Director

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

22 November 18, 2014

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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**November 18, 2014**

**HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**County of Los Angeles**  
**383 Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Dear Supervisors:**

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION,  
INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT FUNDING  
(AB 2994 SURPLUS CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND)  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve extending funding allocation for an additional 2 years from surplus funds available through AB 2994 for one Sole Source contract previously approved by the Board and authorize and delegate authority to the Director, or designee, of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to extend this contract by written notice as follows :
  - \$100,000 annual contract amount for **Alma Family Services (ALMA)** for a program addressing Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Services for Developmentally Disabled Children in Supervisorial District I from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016 for a maximum contract sum of \$200,000.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to increase/decrease this contract in the event of budget allocation increases or decreases not to exceed 10 percent of the Maximum Annual Contract Sum. Approval from County Counsel will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the Board and the CEO in writing within 10 business days after execution.





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## BACKGROUND

In 1982, the Governor of California signed into law two bills aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 1733/Papan (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982), authorized the allocation of state funding to counties for child abuse prevention and intervention services offered by public and private, non-profit agencies.

The second law, AB 2994/lmbrecht (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 shall be paid to a County Children's Trust Fund.

Both of these laws provide that a designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council develop and recommend funding priorities to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, the designated child abuse council is the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN).

As previously pointed out in the adopted Board Letter first approving funding for Alma Family Services, ICAN engaged in a very serious and lengthy process to review and evaluate the proposal for this program. ICAN formed a special Ad Hoc Group comprised of members from numerous County and City agencies including the Department of Children and Family Services, 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 and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. This Ad Hoc Group held a face-to-face meeting and engaged in an extensive process to vet Alma's proposal so that any concerns about the program could be addressed, and to reach consensus regarding recommending approval for funding. Approval for funding this specialized program also was given by the ICAN Policy Committee.







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## RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

### Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Project for Developmentally Disabled Children

**Alma Family Services** developed a child abuse and neglect prevention/early intervention project that serves developmentally disabled children. The overall project goal, to provide child abuse prevention/early intervention, specialized case management services for developmentally disabled children who have been abused or neglected to prevent re-victimization of these children, remains the same. Alma continues to work toward building and strengthening the bridge between DCFS staff, Regional Center staff and other community service providers. The program provides appropriate specialized case management support and services, parent training, support groups, and education for families with disabled children to prevent future abuse and neglect.

As indicated in the Board Letter first approving funding for this program, National research shows that children and adolescents with developmental disabilities are known to be vulnerable to abuse and neglect and are likely to be victimized at a much higher rate than other children (4 to 10 times more often). In addition, this group of children are inadequately educated and supported to seek alternatives to abusive situations. It is also known that there is often an underreporting of abuse, neglect and victimization for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. Through this program, Alma Family Services is providing important and necessary services to this underserved and highly at-risk group of children.

### Justification

This program was set up as a two-year demonstration project. There has been very positive feedback received about Alma's work and those involved believe it is important for Alma to continue to provide these needed services. ICAN consulted





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with the Program Staff from DCFS who are working with this program and was provided the following information regarding the goals Alma has set out to achieve:

1. Building and strengthening the bridge between DCFS staff, Regional Centers' staff, and other community service providers who specialize in providing services for children who have a developmental disability.

Alma is an active member of numerous community organizations and has completed educational presentations on the Early Intervention Project to: Best Start Partnership, SPA 3 Disabilities Collaborative, Carino Partnership Leadership, Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Healthy El Monte Collaborative. In addition, Alma has partnered with Dr. Jeff Dorsey from DCFS to present the program to various DCFS offices including Pomona, El Monte, Glendora and the greater San Gabriel/Pomona area regarding the program's mission and objectives. Alma completed training on Child Abuse Prevention and its increased prevalence among children with Developmental Disabilities for staff at the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. Alma's Child Abuse Prevention Specialist continues to provide on-site support to staff at the El Monte DCFS site. Alma partners with Neighborhood Legal Services (NLSLA), the Department of Mental Health (DMH) CSAT unit and the Regional Center assessment team regarding client needs and provides support on a regular basis. Alma's Child Abuse Prevention Specialist is dedicated to this specialized program on a full-time basis and provides increased availability for client and family support, and collaboration and outreach, as evidenced by the frequent contact made with DCFS social workers and Regional Center coordinators. Alma staff has attended DCFS Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings to support families with whom they are working and to provide additional client information to aid in further understanding the unique needs of the family.







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2. Providing linguistically and culturally appropriate specialized case management support and services to assist DCFS and Regional Centers service providers who are working with children who have experienced child abuse and have a developmental disability.

Alma provides culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services and compliments the work of DCFS and Regional Center through strategic case management services. Alma's Child Abuse Prevention Specialist is bi-lingual and culturally representative of the Hispanic culture that is served by the Early Intervention Program. This fact is important because, in addition to serving all cultural groups represented in the program catchment area, the majority of clients that are served by Alma are Latino (95%). Moreover, many of these caretakers are monolingual and prefer to speak Spanish. Results from Parent Survey Analyses (a 5 question survey that is given to all participants at the conclusion of services) for program year 2013 indicated that families rated Alma as a 4.9 out of 5 on the question of *How courteous and respectful is the staff regarding your culture/background?* and 100% of the parents surveyed said yes to the question *If you need help again, would you come back to this agency?* In addition, Alma staff attended court hearings and DCFS monitored visits with families served by this program to provide linguistic, organizational, emotional, and attachment support with their dependents. Regarding case management services, Alma has worked closely with DCFS and Regional Center staff to assist them with clients' case management needs. Alma complimented the existing services provided by DCFS and Regional Center by identifying specific resources and supports for families, while not duplicating work that has already been done, such as: tutoring services, financial assistance, linkages to food banks, school supplies, legal services, and respite services. Alma's Child Abuse Prevention Specialist also maintains open and consistent communication with DCFS and Regional Center staff by being available for phone consultations and progress updates.





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3. Provide a parent training and support group for caretakers of children who have experienced abuse and have a developmental disability.

Families who are in the Early Intervention program are enrolled in Alma's "Parent Project" program for caregivers with teens and "Loving Solutions" for caregivers with children ages 5 to 10 years old. These programs are 10-week parenting courses that combine the contributions of educators, mental health and juvenile justice practitioners to teach parents how to manage difficult parenting situations and provide the emotional support and confidence they will need to meet the needs of their child or teenager.

Alma has taken this approach and tailored it to caretakers who are raising children with developmental disabilities. The groups are run 3 to 4 times a year on an ongoing basis.

4. Educate the children and parents on child abuse and what to do to prevent future abuse and neglect.

In addition to the "Parent Project" and "Loving Solution" group, caretakers and clients receive ongoing education on child abuse prevention by the Child Abuse Prevention Specialist who provides home-based services to meet the needs of these clients covering topics such as: education on developmental disabilities, signs to look for regarding abuse and neglect, preventative measures to reduce a family's vulnerability for child abuse and neglect, self care, how to develop and maintain a support system and empowerment skills. During this process, the Child Abuse Prevention Specialist assesses for additional needs and links the client and caregiver to mental health services and resources that can benefit the family. In addition to the program services at the El Monte site, Alma also provides onsite and in-home mental health services for families.

While Alma Family Services operates other programs either through a contract with DCFS or through collaborative ventures, the staff members who are assigned to this program use their allocated time for this project only. The







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project, though designed to be community-based, is housed at the MacLaren Children's Center.

This project utilizes 1½ full-time child abuse specialists (case managers) who coordinate with DCFS and Regional Centers' staff members to identify children with developmental disabilities who have been abused or neglected. The role of the child abuse specialist is to facilitate the process of linking children and families to service providers who specialize or are familiar with developmental disabilities, to provide mentoring and training on child abuse and the developmentally disabled, build and strengthen the bridge with service providers to decrease the likelihood of re-victimization of the children, provide parent training and support and educate the children on child abuse and neglect and what they can do.

The staff member also builds and/or strengthens the bridge between DCFS, Regional Centers and other specialty service providers who work with children with developmental disabilities. The Alma Family Services staff member coordinates with significant members of the community provider network and provides training and mentoring regarding mandated reporting to improve the reporting process for child abuse and neglect for this specific population.

The goal is not to replace existing case management services but to augment services with a specialized approach for this population. The Alma staff serves as child abuse specialist, facilitator, case manager, advocate, consultant and educator. At any given time, each full-time staff member can carry an average caseload of approximately 15 children and their families.

Parents and caregivers whose children are part of this program are encouraged to become involved in various activities or programs that bring them together in a positive way with other parents. For example, there are currently efforts to develop a Neighborhood Action Council (NAC) in SPA 3. The goal of the development of this council is to build community support and capacity and





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decrease the isolation within the community for families who have a child with a developmental disability. The parents and caregivers are encouraged to assist with the development of a local council.

The child abuse specialists provide a weekly parent training and support group in Spanish and English for the parents/caregivers of children identified as part of this project. This class is tailored to meet the needs of the participants. In this group, the Alma Family Services staff utilizes the curriculum Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, which has a module specifically designed for the parents of children who have a developmental disability. The Triple P program is also included on the evidence-based program list for Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and is available in Spanish and English. In addition, several presentations have been developed in-house in Spanish and English for parents who have children with special needs with such topics as IEP (Individualized Education Plan), Behavioral Issues, Puberty and Sexuality, Understanding Autism, etc., which were designed (in Spanish and English) for the parents of children with disabilities.

This project also educates the children on child abuse, what it is, and what they can do to prevent future abuse. This is done on a one-to-one basis. The training is individualized and designed to best meet the needs and capabilities of the specific child.

Please see Attachment 1 for data on the program outcomes as of March 2014; these data were provided by DCFS Program Staff, Dr. Jeff Dorsey and Onitsha Thompson.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the County. AB 2994 funds are birth certificate surcharge funds deposited into the County's Children's Trust Fund. ICAN has consulted with the DCFS Finance Section to confirm there will be sufficient funds available in the Children's Trust Fund to fund this program for another two years.







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CONTRACTING PROCESS

DCFS has responsibility for administering contracts between the County and private, non-profit community based agencies that receive funding through AB 2994. 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. Alma Family Services was selected through a thorough vetting process by ICAN.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton".

Deanne Tilton  
Executive Director  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

DT:es

- c: Honorable Jackie Lacey, District Attorney, ICAN Chairperson
- William Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Phillip Browning, Director, DCFS
- ICAN Policy Committee
- Children's Board Deputies



**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND  
TREATMENT FUNDING  
(AB 2994 SURPLUS CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND)**

**ALMA FAMILY SERVICES**

**COUNTY'S PERFORMANCE MEASURE SUMMARY / GOALS REGARDING WELL-  
BEING  
CHILD ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES**

<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<b>Method of Data Collection</b>	<b>Performance Outcomes Met</b>
Referred children are provided and / or linked to Mental Health services  <b>Alma Family Services-Mental Health</b>	Special Projects – CWS/CMS	<b>(53) 100%</b>
Number of children and / or families referred and provided with Parenting Classes, Support, Case Management and Child Abuse Education and Prevention services.  <b>Alma Family Services-ICAN</b>	Special Projects- CWS- CMS	<b>(54) 95%</b>
Number of children / families referred and provided with legal services.  <b>Neighborhood Legal Services-Los Angeles (NLS-LA)</b>	Special Projects- CWS/CMS	<b>(58) 91%</b>
Number of children referred and determined Regional Center eligible for the Early Start Program (0-36 months) / the Lanterman Act (3 years and older)  <b>San Gabriel Pomona Valley Regional Center</b>	Special Projects- CWS/CMS	<b>(182) 59%</b>



**As of March 2014:**

**SUMMARY ON MCC PROJECT:**

- Fifty-three (53) children were referred to Alma Family Services-MH for services. One hundred percent **100%** of the children referred were linked and or provided with mental health services.
- Fifty-seven (57) children / families were referred to Alma Family Services-ICAN for Support/Case Management Services, Child Abuse Education/Prevention Services and Parenting Classes.  
Approximately, **95% (54)** received services.
  - There were approximately sixty-four (64) referrals made to Neighborhood Legal Services –Los Angeles (NLS-LA) for health insurance, housing, public benefits/income support, employment, disability, family law for victims of domestic violence, immigration and services related to expunging a record.  
Approximately, **91% (58)** received services.
- Three hundred and four (304) children were referred to San Gabriel Pomona Valley Regional Center for an assessment to determine eligibility for Regional Center services.  
Approximately, **59% (182)** were determined Regional Center eligible for the Early Start Program (**0-36 months**) and or Lanterman Act (**3 and older**).

**Please Note:** Children in which DCFS cases fall into the Emergency Response category are not entered into Special Projects.

## MCC PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

Alma Family Services - Mental Health (August 2011 - March 2014)		
	<i>Number Referred</i>	<i>Number Served<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>

Alma Family Services - ICAN Program			
	<i>Number Referred</i>	<i>Number Ineligible<sup>2</sup></i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>	
<i>Service Provided</i>	<i>Parent/Caregiver</i>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Other</i>
Support Services/Case Management	29	38	1
Child Abuse Education/Prevention	7	40	
Parenting Classes	5		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1</b>

Neighborhood Legal Services Los Angeles (August 2011 - March 2014)		
	<i>Number Referred</i>	<i>Number Served<sup>3</sup></i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (November 2011 - March 2014)					
	<i>Number Referred</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Ineligible<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Inactive<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Pending<sup>6</sup></i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>*304</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>24</b>