



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, July 8, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-3337)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin

Call to Order. (13-3129)

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of July 8, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-3130)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the July 8, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-3131)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Biondi, Franzen, Ng, Olivas, Shevlin, and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of June 17, 2013. (13-3133)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by

Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Biondi, Franzen, Ng, Olivas, Shevlin, and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for July 8, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-3136)

The Los Angeles County Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors has implemented a new electronic Committee Book System. The new electronic System will allow users easy access to Commission information, enable designated users to process Commissioners' nominations for appointments/re-appointments to the various Commission/Committees. An e-mail from BOS Committee Book at committeebook@bos.lacounty.gov with a logon ID and password will be provided to Commissioners/Nominees to electronically complete and submit their Statement of Qualifications online. If Commissioners have any questions, please contact Commission Staff or Committee Book Staff.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for July 8, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-3222)

Director Browning reported the following:

- On June 25, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection ([Item No. 14](#)).
- Commissioner Carol Biondi provided testimony. Some of the same issues that DCFS was faced with 25 years ago still exist.
- The DCFS Offices in Palmdale and Lancaster are very different due to staffing and culture differences. The job of a social worker is stressful. After meeting with the DCFS Palmdale staff, it was understood that grief counseling should be a component of each DCFS office. Dr. Charles Sophy, DCFS, and Director Browning are looking into developing grief counseling for the DCFS Offices.

The Commission recommended that the DCFS consider the LACUSC Team Group Counseling as it is a good model to use as a guide for creating the grief counseling component for DCFS offices.

- **The Board of Supervisors will receive monthly updates on the progress of the DCFS Strategic Plan (Plan). The plan includes new hiring processes focused on individuals' abilities to succeed in the work place. The New Children's Social Worker (CSW) Training Program (Program) has identified 50-60 potential candidates for hire. The Program is totally restructured to include a simulation component where workers will work in a "mock environment" similar to the homes CSWs visit. DCFS believes the "mock environment" will better prepare those undergoing the Master Social Work training before working in the field. The Program is fifty-two weeks; training used to be eight weeks. The first academies targeted to receive training are the CSW Core, Children's Supervising Social Workers (SCSW) Core, Coaching, and leadership.**
- **The DCFS Policy Manual (Manual) rewrite is underway. Elements of the Core Practice Model are being integrated into the Manual. A web-based format of the Manual is being considered. The Union is pleased with the direction of the Manual.**
- **A formula for CSW case load equalization which addresses the weighting of cases relative to workload has been completed. The next steps are to share the formula with the Union, Board of Supervisors (Board), Chief Executive Office (CEO), and the Commission with the intent of allocating the case load equity formula to the next class of staff entering DCFS.**
- **One of the main issues that Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) face is the handling of their finances. This generally affects the smaller FFA providers which oftentimes provide good service to children. A training initiative is underway where the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) will provide education to FFAs on financial matters. A future goal of DCFS is to have online access to the financial records of the smaller providers, thereby enabling DCFS to monitor as well as assist these providers with their financial difficulties. Ms. Drew Ivie, Executive Liaison, recommended a list of those financial firms that assist FFAs be compiled in order to identify which firms are connected with those FFAs experiencing financial problems and setbacks.**
- **Mr. Browning reported large numbers of Children's Social Worker (CSW) are not resigning as rumored and only 2% of the CSW have resigned. The number includes 25 CSWs that were discharged from duty last year.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation by DCFS on Wraparound Services.

- Jonathan Byers, DCFS Division Chief, High Risk Services
- Jennifer Hottenroth, DCFS Assistant Division Chief, High Risk Services
- Gregory Lecklitner, DMH Clinical District Chief, Child Welfare Division (13-3217)

Mr. Byers introduced the team of presenters and distributed a handout titled, “County of Los Angeles Wraparound Program Update.”

Mr. Lecklitner referred to the handout and reported the following:

The Wraparound Program (Wraparound) is a multi-agency program that includes the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Mental Health (DMH), and Probation (Probation).

- **Funding Model**

The funding model for Wraparound is divided into two main streams, mental health services and a case rate.

Mental Health Services: The mental health funding pays for Intensive Care coordination, Intensive Home-Based Services, and other specialty mental health services, as needed. Intensive Care Coordination and Intensive Home-Based Services are new services implemented as a result from the Katie A. Settlement. Intensive Care Coordination involves a team that focuses on the child’s needs and strengths. Intensive Home-Based Services are built into the child’s home and is considered a more intensive treatment that involves a team working in the child’s home.

Case Rate: The case rate is provided by DCFS and is allocated between Tier’s I and II. Tier I funding is allotted to board and care for placement costs, non-mental health services including tutoring or classes and flex funding which includes items such as food or clothing. In some instances, the case rate goes towards Indigent Services for children that do not have Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT).

- **Braided Funding Sources**

In order for the Wraparound to function, different funding streams must be pulled together. Funding for Mental Health Services comes from EPSDT and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Full Service Partnership (FSP) for children and Transition Age Youth (TAY). Case rate funding comes from the Title IV-E Waiver and net county costs associated with the Katie A. Settlement Strategic Plan from 2008. The 2008 Strategic Plan built two tiers of Wraparound, Tiers I and II. Tier II has a significantly

lower allocation of funding per month than Tier I.

Ms. Hottenroth explained that Tiers I and II have different eligibility criteria. Initially Wraparound started with only Tier I. Tier I was designed for kids with intensive mental health needs, were EPSDT eligible, or had an open dependency or delinquency court case. Kids eligible for Tier I were either residing in a Group Home with a Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12 or above or at-risk of being placed in one. In 2009, the Tier I criteria broadened opening the eligibility to include kids residing in or at-risk of being placed in a Group Home with an RCL 10 or above. This new criterion identified a whole new population of kids and created Tier II which includes kids with an open DCFS case and significant mental health or behavioral needs but, not necessarily at-risk of being placed in a high-level Group Home.

- **Total Number of Cases Served**

Ms. Hottenroth reported that the number of kids enrolled in Wraparound has steadily increased over the years. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the average number of kids being served by the 36 Wraparound agencies at any given time was 2,200. The goal is to increase this to 4,200. In the current fiscal year, the highest number of referrals had increased to approximately 2,700. This increase is partly attributed to each of the DCFS Regional Offices having MAPP goals to increase their Wraparound enrollment. Additionally, a Wraparound Team is looking at groups of kids and cases to determine if they have been referred to Wraparound. The indicated statistics are combined DCFS, DMH, and Probation referrals; however, DCFS refers the majority of cases.

Mr. Lecklitner added that there are approximately 500 empty slots.

The Commission requested DCFS provide the statistics separated by the referring department (ie., DCFS, Probation, DMH) and the average length of time between receipt of referrals for Wraparound and enrollment into the program. DCFS agreed to report back to the Commission.

Ivy Lewis Carey, Children's Law Center of California, addressed the Commission explaining that a decline in referrals from the courts may be attributed to the judicial officers not understanding the importance of Wraparound Services.

- **Outcomes for fiscal year 2011-2012**

Ms. Hottenroth reported:

- 77% of children were placed with their families during Wraparound.
- 1,008 children graduated from the Wraparound program. 87% of these children resided with their families upon graduation.

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- 87% of children remained with their families six months after graduation.
 - 61.9% of Wraparound cases closed within 12 months of graduation.
 - **Outcomes**
 - 98% of children had no unsubstantiated referrals six months after graduating from the Wraparound program; this exceeded the goal set of 95%. Wraparound services continue to be provided after graduation in order for the child to have sustainability. The average length of time in Wraparound is 15 months.
 - 80% of children received Community Based Services during Wraparound.
 - In terms of education, 75% of children during Wraparound were at or above grade level and 80% had improved school attendance.
 - **Wraparound Program Redesign**

Mr. Lecklitner explained that there are currently 34 Wraparound providers. The DCFS contracts are set to expire in 2014. With new contracts, the County has an opportunity to redesign Wraparound making the program more efficient while improving the outcomes of children. The redesigned Wraparound will incorporate a more prevalent mental health aspect.

Ms. Hottenroth added that it is anticipated that the Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFSQ) will be released in August 2013. The new contracts will be in place November of 2014.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the presenters responded with the following:

- Ms. Hottenroth responded to the question regarding 2008-2009 data indicating a disproportionate rate of enrollment to referral for the Palmdale and Compton offices (Palmdale referred 31 and enrolled 15; and Compton referred 104 and enrolled 27) that the number of youth referred to Wraparound and those enrolled in the 2008-2009 data collected may be attributed to having only one Tier at that time. Once the eligibility was broadened, more youth were able to be referred to Wraparound.

The Commission expressed concern with the accessibility of services in the Palmdale Office, especially mental health services. In the Compton office, Wraparound was slow to be rolled out even though there is great need.

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- **Mr. Lecklitner explained that some of the MHSA FSP funding is set aside to fund Wraparound services.**
 - **Mr. Lecklitner explained that the 15% enrolled in Wraparound in 2009 and in this current year were designated with diagnosis Unknown due to families declining to participate in the mental health aspect of Wraparound. Additionally, there is less focus on diagnosis and more emphasis being placed on having a trauma perspective and identifying the underlying needs that drives the child’s behavior.**
 - **Ms. Hottenroth explained that although the average age at the time of enrollment is 15 years old, the goal is to reach out to youth as young as possible who need these services.**
 - **Mr. Byers explained that in terms of instances when a family declines specific services, the Wraparound team continues to work with the child and family to meet the needs of the child. There is continuous engagement with a “do whatever it takes” philosophy.**

To identify youth highest at-risk, a process has been established using clinical case conferences with the youth to ensure that they are matched with the appropriate services. Safeguards are being set up with Group Home youth to ensure that they are connected with Wraparound. No child 12 and under is admitted into a Group Home without an extensive approval process at the highest management level that questions whether the child is a candidate for Wraparound services.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[REPORT](#)

IV. DISCUSSION

7. Recommendation to receive and file a document titled, “Top Ten list of Most Important Changes Needed to Improve Service Delivery to Meet the Mental Health Needs of Children/Families” from DCFS Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services and to refer the list to the Commission’s Mental Health Workgroup. (13-3220)

After discussion and on motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried this item was

received and filed and referred to the Commission's Mental Health Workgroup for follow up with the DCFS Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Discussion and approval to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Commission, expressing the Commission's willingness to support the work of the new Blue Ribbon Commission. (13-3235)

Chair Berger thanked Vice Chair Friedman for authoring the letter.

After discussion, on motion of Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Biondi, Franzen, Ng, Olivas, Shevlin, and Rudnick being absent), the letter was approved with minor nonsubstantive changes.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-3137)

There were none.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of July 8, 2013. (13-3221)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-3138)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment of the meeting of July 8, 2013. (13-3139)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.