



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381B
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Monday, October 28, 2013

9:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-5118)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)
[VIDEO-PART 1](#)
[VIDEO-PART 2](#)

Present: Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich, Commissioner Dan Scott and Commissioner Janet Teague

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (13-5017)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sanders at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the October 18, 2013 special meeting minutes. (13-5019)

On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Rich and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Approval of the October 18, 2013 regular meeting minutes. (13-5020)

On motion of Commissioner Rich, seconded by Vice Chair Tevrizian and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS

4. Presentations by:

9:00 a.m. - Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) - Philip L. Browning, Director

9:30 a.m. - DCFS Children's Social Worker Panel including hotline, command post, and Emergency Response Social Workers

10:00 a.m. - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - Sheriff Leroy D. Baca and Assistant Sheriff James J. Hellmold

10:45 a.m. - DCFS Supervising Children's Social Worker Panel

11:15 a.m. - Panel with representatives from various child welfare service providers, such as SHIELDS for Families, Project IMPACT, Bienvenidos, Para Los Niños, and Children's Institute Inc. (13-5024)

Philip L. Browning, Director, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), presented an overview of the Department's Budget Priorities and Strategic Plan. Mr. Browning responded to questions posed by the Commission regarding the newly implemented staff training, the Core Practice Model and their collaboration with universities. Fesia Davenport, Deputy Director, DCFS, addressed the Commission regarding the differences between the previous training and the new training module. The Commission invited Mr. Browning to a future meeting to discuss the remainder of the presentation, integration with other departments, impediments to implementation and key recommendations for the Commission and their work with community based activities.

David Green, Children's Social Worker (CSW), DCFS and SEIU Executive Board member, addressed the Commission regarding the need to hire additional social workers, the climate of fear that exists with the families they work with and the needs and challenges relating to protecting children and families. Mr. Green responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, presented an overview on the role of the Department in improving child safety. Sheriff Baca expressed concern regarding the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies during child abuse service calls. James J. Hellmold, Assistant Sheriff, addressed the Commission relating to the Deputies' role in protecting children upon arrival to a service call. Sheriff Baca and Assistant Sheriff Hellmold responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Larry Golan, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Supervisor, DCFS, addressed the Commission regarding CSW case loads and the need for more CSW's in the field. Mr. Golan responded to questions posed by the Commission.

DCFS Emergency Response Social Workers, Maria Garcia and Almira Garza, shared their work experience and expressed concern over the need for training, support and resources at their most demanding locations; and shared their struggles with finding appropriate placement for children. Ms. Garcia and Ms. Garza responded to questions posed by the Commission and were asked to provide a list of impediments and recommendations to improve the child welfare system.

Paula Gamboa, Supervising Social Worker, DCFS, addressed the Commission regarding training, CSW challenges and their work environment. Ms. Gamboa expressed concern over the increasing amount of open child cases and the need for more CSWs. Ms. Gamboa responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Danielle Martin, former foster youth and Member of CYC (California Youth Connection), provided her perspective as a former foster youth of DCFS. Ms. Martin expressed concern regarding the need for more CSWs to allow them the time needed to build relationships with the children they are assigned to oversee.

Blanca Gomez, CSW, DCFS, provided an overview of the workload, the Department's collaboration with other departments and community based organizations. Ms. Gomez responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Members of the Countywide Community Child Welfare Coalition, Dr. Kathryn Icenhower, SHIELDS, Dr. Matthew P. Harris, Project Impact, Dr. Manuel Rivera, Programs Children's Institute, Inc., Sara Tienda, MSW, and Dr. Georgia Thompson, Bienvenidos, addressed the Commission regarding services, prevention, collaboration and the need to re-implement resources that focus on keeping families together.

Members of the public, Genevieve Clavreul, Patrick O'Rourke, Donnamarie Fontaine, Lori Martin, Arnold Sachs, Don Saxton, Bill Gay and Denise Paz addressed the Commission.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or 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 immediate action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5021)

No matters were presented.

6. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission.
(13-5022)

Members of the public, Danny Ramos, Alfaro Remington, Joseph Duval, Patrick O'Rourke, Donnamarie Fontaine and Lori Martin addressed the Commission.

7. Adjournment. (13-5023)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.