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 140A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
http://lachildrenscommission.org

Monday, October 21, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4952)

Attachments: AUDIO

Present: Chair Genevra Berger, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager and Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq.

Excused: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Call to Order. (13-4884)

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. A quorum was established at 10:32 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of October 21, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-4885)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of October 7, 2013. (13-4886)

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Ann Franzen, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, and Trevino-Powell being absent) and Commissioner Patricia Curry abstaining, this item was approved.

Attachments: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

3. Approval of the October 21, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-4888)

On motion of Commissioner Biondi, seconded by Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, and Trevino-Powell being absent), this item was approved.

Agenda Items 2 and 3 were taken after Agenda Item 5.

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for October 21, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-4889)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **It is with great sadness to inform you of the passing of Commissioner Sorkin's husband, Al Sorkin who passed away on Saturday, October 19, 2013.**

- **Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, is the new Second District representative for the Commission. She was appointed on October 15, 2013.**

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

5. DCFS Director's report for October 21, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-4890)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **The monthly DCFS Strategic Plan Update to the Board of Supervisors (Board) will take place on October 22, 2013. Approximately 20% of the objectives have been completed.**

- **The DCFS New Children's Social Worker (CSW) Training Program is in its third academy. The restructured curriculum is 52 weeks; the previous program lasted 8 weeks. The "real life" simulation component of the curriculum has had positive feedback from new employees and staff. The Board recently approved the hiring of 150 additional CSWs.**

- **A web-based format of the Policy Manual is scheduled to be operational in January 2014. Social Workers will have the capability of accessing the Policy Manual through a mobile application.**

- **The Core Practice Model has been piloted in some offices. Additional staff is needed to fully implement. Casey Families have agreed to assist with rolling out the Core Practice Model to all offices.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following.

- **The hope is to have an opportunity to present the Department's Strategic Plan to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRC); a significant portion of the report will include the Katie A. Settlement and the Core Practice Model. Additionally, having a Department representative attend the BRC meetings to provide clarification on any information discussed or provided during the meetings is recommended.**

- **A database has been developed that tracks all of the recommendations made to DCFS since 2008. During this time period, 14 organizations produced 821 recommendations. Of this amount, 56% have been fully implemented, 40% are currently in progress and 4% have not been implemented or started on.**

  Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, DCFS Office of Board Relations clarified that the 821 recommendations include recommendations that may be dependent upon and involve several other County departments in order to implement.

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

6. **III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

Discussion and approval of the Commission's 2014 meeting schedule. (13-4883)

On motion of Vice Chair Susan Friedman, seconded by Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, and Trevino-Powell being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

7. Presentation of the 2013-14 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers:

- Martha Trevino-Powell, Elections Chair (13-4896)

In the absence of Election's Chair Martha Trevino Powell, Ms. Sylvia Drew Ivie, Executive Liaison for the Commission, presented the 2013-14 Slate of Officers. The Candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice Chairs were: Gene Berger for Chair and Susan Friedman and Steven M. Olivas for Vice Chairs.

By common consent and there being no objection, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, and Trevino Powell being absent), the 2013-14 Commission for Children and Families Slate of Officers was approved.

Later in the meeting following the count of ballots and Item No. 9, Ms. Drew Ivie announced that the Commission elected Genevra Berger as Chair and Commissioners Susan Friedman and Steven M. Olivas, were respectively reelected/elected Vice Chairs of the Commission for 2013-14. The Commission lost its quorum; therefore, formal announcement of Officers will be made again at the next Commission meeting.

8. Discussion and approval of a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding a presentation by the Commission for Children and Families, on the Commission's work and recommendations on prevention for at-risk children and families, given at the Children & Families Well-Being Cluster meeting held October 16, 2013. (13-4901)

Chair Berger briefly explained the background regarding the presentation to the Children and Families Well-Being Cluster.

Vice Chair Kleinberg explained that the Commission has been advocating for prevention services for a very long time.

Commissioner Biondi suggested a statement on the Commission's long time efforts advocating for Prevention services be included in the letter.

Brenda Robinson, Second District Children's Deputy explained that sending the document to the Board Offices does not guarantee that the information will be provided to BRC. If the intention is for BRC to receive this information, the Commission should send it directly.

Commissioner Curry suggested that the directors of the organizations mentioned in the presentation, should be copied on the letter as well as BRC. Additionally, comments regarding the importance of child safety should be included in the cover letter.

Commissioner Olivas suggested that the Commission develop a statement of priorities and explained that the Commission's specific priorities have changed over the years based on the need at that time and having a list of priorities available would be beneficial when sending letters on behalf of the Commission.

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Susan Friedman, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, and Trevino-Powell being absent), this item was approved with the following amendments:

1. **Update the letter to include a carbon copy to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection and the Directors of organizations cited in the presentation's supplemental document titled, "Making Prevention a Priority for At-Risk Children and Families in Los Angeles County".**

2. **Update the letter to include a statement on the importance of prevention in relation to child safety and that the Commission for Children and Families has been advocating for prevention services in the county for many years.**

Attachments: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

IV. COMMISSION WORKGROUP UPDATE

9. Update by the newly established CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) Workgroup on prevention and awareness efforts of the domestic sex trafficking of children and youth.

- Susan Friedman, Workgroup Chair (13-4898)

Vice Chair Friedman provided the following brief history on the County's efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children:

- **In response, to a Board motion instructing departments to develop an aggressive strategy to combat child prostitution, a multi-agency Sex Trafficking taskforce was created.**

- **Michelle Guymon, Probation Department, through a federal grant set up a program focused on shifting the system's criminalization of children involved in prostitution to be viewed as victims and survivors.**

- **With an increase of foster care children in group homes falling prey to becoming victims of sexual exploitation, DCFS has taken lead on the county's taskforce. Additionally, the Juvenile Court's has implemented a program, Succeeding Through Resilience and Achievement (STAR) Court that identifies and supports victims through victim centered services. The biggest challenge in supporting these children is finding suitable placement.**

- **With commercial sexual exploitation of children on the rise, there is an increased federal focus. The State has also established a taskforce to develop a protocol for counties to follow in order to address this rising issue.**

- **In September of this year, U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch introduced legislation that would help combat domestic youth sex trafficking. However, although this legislation addresses many of the issues with an emphasis to housing, there is no planned funding that supports the legislative measure other than moving money from the State's Social Service Funds.**

Commissioner Friedman invited Commissioners to join her newly established (CSEC) Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) Workgroup that she will Chair.

Commissioner Biondi suggested that renovating an underutilized probation camp to be an unlocked facility as an option for housing youth victims of sex trafficking.

Commissioner Kamlager questioned whether other County Departments have Committees established focusing on the same issues and suggested that it may be more effective to integrate the Commission's recommendations and expertise into existing work being done to avoid duplicative efforts.

Ms. Robinson explained that the September 24, 2013 Board Motion (Item No. 32-D) directed the Chief Executive Officer to coordinate with the Sex Trafficking Task Force and various County Departments involved to create a multi-agency response model and report back in ninety days with the model and implementation plan.

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

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. 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. (13-4891)

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. (13-4893)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Announcements

12. Announcements for the meeting of October 21, 2013. (13-4892)

Commissioner Curry announced that the next Commission meeting scheduled for November 4, 2013 will be held at Shield's for Families.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment of the meeting of October 21, 2013. (13-4894)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.