

**MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS
AND SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL**

July 19, 2016

On January 12, 2015, the Board adopted the motion that implemented a program pairing a public health nurse (PHN) with a social worker when investigating abuse and neglect for children under 24 months. This program, known as the “joint initiative,” was one of many recommendations contained in the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection Report.¹

In addition to the joint initiative PHNs, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) also employs PHNs who assist DCFS social workers with investigating the medical aspects of child abuse and neglect. The Department of Public Health (DPH) employs PHNs who assist DCFS social workers with medical case management for children in out-of-home placement. Understanding that children at-risk of abuse and neglect, and those within foster care often suffer from various health conditions,² these

¹ Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection, The Road to Safety For Our Children, Final Report, 19, available at http://ceo.lacounty.gov/pdf/brc/BRCCP_Final_Report_April_18_2014.pdf.

² American Academy of Pediatrics, Physical Health, Healthy Foster Care America, (July 12, 2016 10:56 a.m.), <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health->

MOTION

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DCFS and DPH PHNs, and their respective departments, serve some of the most vulnerable children in Los Angeles County.

In a recent report to the Board on the joint initiative, the Office of Child Protection recommended that the DCFS PHNs should be consolidated under DPH. Besides the career paths available to PHNs within DPH, the supervisorial structure, training opportunities and technical assistance available within DPH is better suited for PHNs to grow and hone their skills to best serve the children of Los Angeles County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Child Protection, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office, Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Health and applicable unions, to report back in 30 days on the feasibility, benefits and detriments, if any, and fiscal viability of this recommendation to transfer the DCFS PHNs to DPH.