

Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality



*A Collaboration Between
DCFS, Community, Legal Partners and
Casey Family Programs*



ERDD | A DCFS, Community, Legal Partners and Casey Family Programs Collaboration

Overview

The ERDD¹ workgroup is comprised of key members from DCFS², community stakeholders, legal partners, and other County departments who are committed to reducing disparity and disproportionality among African American children in the child welfare system by implementing strategic initiatives and programs that promote safety and well-being, advocacy, cultural humility, family preservation, and better outcomes for African American children.

Past research³ has shown that African American children are over-represented at most, if not all, key decision points in the child welfare system. In CY 2016, African American children in Los Angeles County⁴ accounted for only 8% of the child population; yet, African American children represented 19% of substantiated allegations, 24% of entries, and 28% of children in care. Therefore, improving outcomes for this particular population will likely shift the outcomes in a positive direction for other children in the system as well.

Priorities

ERDD has focused its efforts on four key priorities, which are promising practices that have been successfully implemented in other child welfare jurisdictions to address racial disparity and disproportionality: 1) Cultural Broker Program, 2) Project Fatherhood, 3) Cultural Trainings, and 4) Effective Black Parenting.

Moving Forward

In partnership with its communities, DCFS has enlisted the support and assistance of Casey Family Programs (Casey) around the strategic planning, implementation, and sustainability of ERDD efforts. In particular, Damion Wright, Director of Casey Family Programs Los Angeles County Field Office, has committed his time and expertise to ongoing involvement in ERDD meetings and activities including the facilitation of conversations related to race and racism, the exploration of African American principles, and the exploration of engagement strategies. Additionally, Mr. Wright has developed a framework for ERDD success that will lead to desired goals and outcomes (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. ERDD Framework



¹ Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality

² Department of Children and Family Services

³ Knott, T. & Giwa, S. (2012). African American disproportionality within CPS and disparate access to support services: Review and critical analysis of the literature. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, 29, 219-230. doi: 10.1080/0886571X2012.697434.

⁴ Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Rezvani, G., Eyre, M., Sandoval, A., Yee, H., Xiong, B., Benton, C., White, J., & Cotto, H. (2017). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 6/28/2017, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>