

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND
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Public/Private Partnership Among DCFS, A Second Chance and Philanthropy

In January 2017, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) implemented the state-mandated Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program. RFA promotes greater permanency for foster youth by replacing, streamlining and unifying the approval process for relatives, non-relative extended family members (NREFMs), county-licensed and certified foster parents, guardians and adoptive families. RFA prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable foster children by enabling seamless transitions to permanency; and increases the availability of foster caregivers by allowing approved relatives/NREFMs to also care for non-related children.

Implementing the RFA process, which requires training, a family evaluation (formerly referred to as a psychosocial assessment), background checks, and a home environment assessment of families within 90 days of an emergency placement of a child, has challenged California counties, statewide. By December 31, 2019, licensed foster parents and relative/NREFM caregivers who want to continue providing care and

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supervision for children are required to participate in the full Resource Family Approval process. As of April 2018, DCFS had 4,385 pending RFA applications. Of the 4,385 pending applications, 1,575 families have children placed in their homes; and 2,810 do not have placements. Of the 1,575 pending families with children placed in their homes, 1,080 (69%) have been open for 90 days or more. Of the 2,810 pending families who do not have children in their care, over 2,289 (81%) have been open for 120 days or more. Compounding the volume further is the approximately 500 additional new RFA applications received each month.

Assembly Bill 110 took effect on March 30, 2018 requiring the California Department of Social Services to provide interim funding for relatives/NREFMs with pending applications. Unfortunately, the interim funding is not retroactive to the date of the child's placement in a relative/NREFM caregiver's home. While AB 110 remained in effect until June 2018, all California counties must develop and implement a plan to eliminate the backlog of pending applications by September 2018.

With utmost urgency, DCFS must clear the backlog of over 3,369 pending relative/NREFM and recruited families, 1,080 of whom have abused and neglected children placed in their homes. On April 10, 2018, this Board unanimously approved the addition of 100 new RFA staffing positions to DCFS' budget effective July 1, 2018. In light of the urgency, DCFS has already begun the on-boarding and training process that normally takes several months. The delay in having trained staff in place will jeopardize DCFS' ability to meet the state's September 2018 deadline to develop and implement a plan to eliminate the backlog of pending RFA applications.

"A Second Chance, Inc., ("ASCI") (d/b/a Kinship Insight Solutions LLC), a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit, specialized kinship care agency, headquartered in Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, is a nationally recognized organization that has been successful in assessing relative caregivers in 60 days. ASCI is enthusiastic to partner with philanthropy to work alongside DCFS with the goal of creating a Resource Family Approval best-practice model.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Director of DCFS, in conjunction with the Center for Strategic Public Private Partnerships, housed within the Office of Child Protection to enter into a public-private partnership short-term contract with A Second Chance, Inc., at a cost of no more than \$400,000 in order to assist DCFS with eliminating the backlog of pending RFA applications; and to develop departmental policies, procedures and best practices, in collaboration with interested stakeholders, that will prevent future backlogs from recurring; and
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS to execute amendments to this contract as needed to accommodate unanticipated program needs and increase or decrease the maximum contract sum by 10% to accommodate any unanticipated increase or decrease in units of service.

S: LP/Public/Private Partnership Among DCFS, A Second Chance and Philanthropy