

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN  
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March 19, 2024

**Community Cultural Broker Program Pilot Program Evaluation and Expansion**

In Los Angeles County (County), Black/African American children make up 8% of the general child population (0 -17 years old) but 27% of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) out-of-home population. Additionally, Black/African American children are seven times as likely to be in foster care as White children and nearly four times as likely as Latino children. Disparity, or the gap in outcomes and experiences between Black/African American and White or Latino children, is driven by the difference in treatment and decision making experienced by Black/African American families when compared to White or Latino children and families. Examples of this may include less engagement with Black/African American fathers, greater placement instability for Black/African American children or fewer services for Black families.

The Community Cultural Broker Program (CCBP) provides an opportunity for Black/African American community and faith-based stakeholders to provide peer support that addresses systemic inequities for Black/African American children and families that interface with the child welfare system. Community Cultural Brokers (CCB) assist families in navigating the child welfare system by connecting them to localized and culturally relevant resources that support child safety, permanency, and well-being.

**MOTION**

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Although the CCBP has been implemented within DCFS since 2008, the lack of uniform processes and a sustainable funding source for the program has impacted DCFS and existing CCBP partners ability to administer the program in a way that would maximize the most desirable outcomes. This has continued to impact the disproportionately and disparity of Black/African American children and families that encounter the child welfare system. In DCFS efforts to eliminate racial disproportionality and disparity within child welfare and to improve the outcomes for Black/African American children, families and communities, the work must start from within the community, and be led by faith-based and community partners. This collective thought partnering and collaboration between the community and DCFS leads to more holistic planning and effective service delivery.

On April 18, 2023, the Board approved the motion, [Expediting Prevention Services and Supports for Family First Prevention Services State Block Grant Funding](#) to enter into a funding agreement with the Center for Strategic Partnerships fiscal agent, Southern California Grantmakers (SCG), to facilitate an expedited funding pathway to community-based organizations and consultants for the provision of ten prevention and promotion pilot services and supports identified in the County's Comprehensive Prevention Plan. The CCBP pilot and program evaluation are currently implemented as a part of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Community Prevention and Promotion Pathway Pilot and is slated to sunset on June 30, 2024.

Family First Transition Act (FFTA) funds have been requested to continue the process of becoming an evidence-based program through the federal evidence-based clearinghouse. FFTA funds will also allow DCFS to streamline a data collection method, implement Motivational Interviewing, create a training curriculum and resource community stakeholders to implement the program with paid CCBs, all of which increase

the availability of culturally relevant service delivery.

The County and agency leads who are working on project management and coordination of the pilots will continue to work closely with the identified community organizations or consultants to implement this work successfully, which includes seeking community feedback.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to:

1. Enter into a funding agreement effective the date of execution through June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$2,580,000 with the Center for Strategic Partnerships' fiscal agent, SCG, to fund a community-based organization for the provision of the CCBP pilot services and supports identified in the LA County Comprehensive Prevention Plan, fund the consultant identified for the program evaluation of the CCBP pilot services, and fund the community-based organization for the provisions of the CCBP pilot expansion services and supports identified in SPAs 1, 2, and 5.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to the funding agreements with SCG for any necessary changes or to increase or decrease the funding amount during the term of the agreement to accommodate increases or decreases in services, provided sufficient funding is available for increases and approved by County Counsel. The Director of DCFS, or designee, will notify the Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in writing, within ten days of the execution of such amendments.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee to terminate the funding agreement with SCG for contractor's default, County's convenience, or if Contractor initiates termination for convenience, provided that County Counsel approval is obtained prior to termination of the agreement. The Director will notify

the Board and the CEO, in writing, within ten business days of terminating the agreement.

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