

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND

April 9, 2024

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Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Los Angeles County

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), ICAN Associates, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and other County and community agencies proclaims April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Los Angeles County to promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to bring hope, strength and support to children and families.

The safety and wellbeing of our children and families is paramount, and we know that linking families to supportive services when they need them is the best way to ensure that children are safe. The County’s Mandated Supporter Initiative (MSI) aims to facilitate mandated reporters’ ability to connect families in need with supportive services upstream to prevent abuse and neglect, as well as the need for DCFS involvement. In

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building out a more robust network of supportive and accessible services for families in their own communities, we seek to reduce incidences and reports of child abuse and neglect, while strengthening families and promoting holistic wellbeing.

Another important prevention effort led by ICAN is the Infant Safe Sleep Campaign. ICAN child death review data found that in Los Angeles County, there are more sleep related deaths than all other accidental child deaths combined. Accidental suffocation is the greatest risk for babies under age 1. These heartbreaking deaths are silent, quick, and preventable. ICAN Unsafe Safe Sleep data indicates that when information on safe sleep practices is provided, unsafe sleep fatalities decrease as new parents have the tools they need to make informed choices.

These are two of the many critical prevention and promotion efforts underway throughout the County that aim to improve outcomes for children and families. This work requires partnerships, collaboration, and ongoing dialogue between various stakeholders, including County Departments, schools, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, community based-organizations, advocates, young people, and families.

This year, once again, in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, hundreds of children across Los Angeles County have participated in the ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Children's Poster Art contest. This contest provides young people the opportunity to express their concerns regarding child abuse and neglect, and develop inspiring artwork depicting their ideas for keeping children safe. The County commends the young people who are finalists and winners in the ICAN Associates Child Abuse

Prevention Poster Art Contest, and is appreciative to all the participants for their talent and vision.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of April 2024 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles and recognize the professionals and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the safety, joy and well-being of children and families.
2. Direct CEO to work with the Interim Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Prevention & Promotion Governing Committee and the Department of Children and Family Services to report back to the Board in writing in 60 days on the feasibility of increased staffing and funding to support the MSI work. This report should include exploring existing positions within DCFS that can be used for this purpose.
3. Direct the Department of Health Services (DHS) to work with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Department of Public Health (DPH), and DCFS to report back to the Board in writing in 60 days with a feasibility plan for a one-year pilot program at Olive View- UCLA Medical Center to provide a crib for every child born at Olive View who does not have a safe sleep environment at home. This report should include options for crib storage, distribution and purchasing, a timeline for the pilot project (preferably in 2024) and a general estimate of the number of cribs to be distributed along with estimated cost for the pilot at Olive

View, followed by a second-year pilot at Harbor UCLA. The report should also identify any third-party agencies or community-based organizations currently under contract with DCFS that could potentially administer the program in partnership with DHS.

4. Direct DCFS and CEO Communications to work with ICAN and First5LA to increase public awareness and to support the Infant Safe Sleep Campaign, which promotes safe sleeping practices by all infant caregivers.
5. Direct all County departments to work with ICAN to renew the declaration of Los Angeles County as a No-Hit Zone in recognition of the need to prevent the damaging physical and emotional impact of hitting. In accordance with the declaration, all County departments and contracted agencies shall continue to post the No-Hit posters and share information about the negative effects of hitting with the clients and families they serve.
6. Commend ICAN Associates for over 40 years of sponsoring the Child Abuse Prevention Children's Poster Art contest and recognize the student finalists and winners of the 2024 Poster Art Contest for their talent and participation.

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