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Understanding and Addressing Origin and Obstacles: Ending Intergenerational Homelessness and Housing Insecurity, Incarceration, and Systems Involvement and Ensuring Generational and Life-Long Success for Transition Age Youth

Studies have shown that the risk of homelessness, incarceration, and systems involvement increases within generations, especially Black and Latino communities, and to end the cycle will require a comprehensive understanding to address the origin and obstacles.

Local rents continue to rise, homeownership has become an American fantasy, not dream, and salaries have not aligned with the increases in the cost of living. Systemic racism and the over-surveillance of communities of color have resulted in the over-incarceration of Latino and Black people in local youth

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detention facilities, jails, and state prisons. Generation of families are seen heavily entangled in the child welfare system, incarceration, or both. These conditions are also incredibly detrimental to someone's physical and mental well-being and with the lack of nutritious foods and food security, in general, can lead to lifelong ailments. These are very real situations that our transition age youth (TAY) in Los Angeles County's (County) Department of Children and Family (DCFS) have lived through, experienced, and know all too well and still they are resilient and hopeful to achieve something more beyond their circumstances.

For some DCFS TAY the concept and reality of adulthood can be particularly daunting and full of systemic barriers, and they will require supports, resources, and services to ensure a successful and independent adulthood. To achieve that goal, they will need to access the available network of supports that will help empower their growth, self-confidence, and ability to independently thrive.

The County needs to ensure that the plethora of programs, supports, and resources that are provided are equitably available and accessible, relevant, and effective in promoting the healthy development and lifelong wellbeing of DCFS TAY as they enter adulthood and reach each milestone throughout their lives. This needs to be done while also taking a critical lens into these supports to make sure they are providing individualized care based on what DCFS TAY specifically need to mitigate any aggravating factors and traumas that may be a barrier to their success, not just present but for the rest of their lives.

A safe place to call home; an array of relevant and specific services that are assigned during the initial evaluation and consistently and frequently reviewed for adjustment and continual assessments; and evaluations for service efficacy is a must in how services and supports are delivered and provided so that DCFS TAY can be successful beyond the expectations at an initial point in time, but rather, throughout DCFS TAY's connection with the County and its services. Efforts to assist youth with successfully transitioning to adulthood are underway and the County's Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee has determined that it will focus on addressing youth disconnection (young people between the ages of 16-24 who are not in school, in training, or employed) and promoting housing stability for systems-impacted Transitional Age Youth, ages 18-24, and is planning to partner with the County's System of Care to achieve these goals.

If the County is going to make a transformational dent in ending the intergenerational cycle of homelessness, incarceration, and system-involvement, it must take a life-changing approach for life-long success for DCFS TAY.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Los Angeles County Children's System of Care (SOC), Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC), and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report back, in writing, in 180 days, in collaboration with the Departments of Public Social Services and Mental Health, Probation Department, and other relevant departments and stakeholders, such as the Youth Commission, including

young people with lived experience, that support Transitional Age Youth (TAY) in DCFS on a comprehensive approach for the coordination of resources, opportunities, and care for TAY that will prevent negative outcomes and promote their success and ability to thrive in life, including addressing permanency for system-impacted children and youth. The approach should:

- a) Prioritize prevention, permanency, and center around at-risk and systems-impacted DCFS TAY;
- b) Facilitate and sustain strategic alignment among County and non-County partners to ensure quality service delivery and support;
- c) Identify systems-level barriers and gaps, mission and scope drift, and opportunities for reduction of duplication, redundancy, and competition;
- d) Build on existing, promising efforts to meet the needs of DCFS TAY more comprehensively;
- e) Include robust and consistent assessments for the creation of tailored success planning and comprehensive and frequent independent evaluations and audits of the DCFS TAY-oriented services, programs, and service providers – including but not limited to services that promote stable housing, educational achievement, workforce development, life skills training, health and behavioral health supports, and mentoring – to ensure efficacy; and
- f) Outreach successes and opportunities for improvement, including review of language inclusivity and cultural competency.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct DCFS, in partnership with the Chief Executive Office and any other relevant partners, to report back in writing in 120 days with a detailed description of the planned specialized TAY section within the DCFS including:
 - a. Proposed organizational structure, roles and responsibilities, and a proposed staffing plan;
 - b. Opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the TAY section, existing DCFS programs and units, and County partner departments in the provision of services to TAY; and
 - c. Creating a dynamic, public database, in consultation and partnership with the Chief Information Office, that shows, at minimum:
 - i. The number of TAY in County care;
 - ii. The demographic breakdown of TAY, including sexual orientation, gender identification;
 - iii. The number of TAY who have a history of homelessness and housing insecurity; incarceration and correctional supervision; and child welfare; and
 - iv. The number and type of services TAY is receiving.

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