



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 140-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**
<http://ccf.lacounty.gov>

Monday, March 3, 2025

10:00 AM

Video for the entire meeting. (25-1388)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Land Acknowledgement, and Labor Acknowledgment. (25-0657)

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Charity Chandler-Cole called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Vice-Chair Charity Chandler Cole read the County's Land Acknowledgment, and the Labor Acknowledgment.

Present: Vice-Chair Charity Chandler-Cole, Vice-Chair Franco Vega, Commissioner Tiffany Boyd, Commissioner Khushnuma Cooper, Commissioner Michael Flowers, Commissioner Zaid Gayle, Commissioner Dora Jacildo, Commissioner Roman James, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Lou Moore and Commissioner Jose Miguel Ruiz

Absent: Chair Shimica Gaskins, Commissioner Gabriela Eddy, Commissioner Jeanette Mann and Commissioner Eli Romero

2. Assembly Bill 2449 Notification and/or Request to Approve. (25-0665)

Vice-Chair Charity Chandler-Cole confirmed there were no requests to participate under AB 2449.

3. Approval of minutes from the meeting of January 6, 2025. (25-0673)

On motion of Commissioner Zaid Gayle, seconded by Commissioner Lou Moore, and duly carried (Commissioners Tiffany Boyd, Gabriela Eddy, Jeanette Mann, Eli Romero, and Chair Shimica Gaskins being absent), the minutes from the meeting of January 6, 2025, were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's Report. (25-0674)

There was no report on this item.

5. Report by Brandon T. Nichols, Director, Department of Children and Family Services. (25-0675)

Brandon T. Nichols, Director, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reported the following:

- **The Mandated Supporting Initiative, Assembly Bill 2085, is currently pending. Dr. Tamara Hunter, Executive Director, Prevention and Promotion Services Governing Council, has taken the lead on this issue. The Bill will promote a Pilot Program that will offer mandated "reporters" an alternative to refer families to community agencies as opposed to reporting child abuse to DCFS.**
- **The Board of Supervisors (BOS) will be conducting their final hearings on the Budget on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Although the BOS is looking for budget curtailments across the County, DCFS will not be pausing any of their initiatives, such as DEI. Director Nichols did state his concern for the services that support families across the County, such as behavioral health and mental health services due to federal pressure.**
- **Due to the recent wildfires, 70 children have been displaced from their homes. From the 70, 43 have permanently lost their resource family home be it foster families or birth families. There are 37 homes that DCFS is connected to that were completely lost, 11 of those being the homes of DCFS employees. DCFS is working with the philanthropic community to meet the needs of displaced families. Various agencies are providing money for the displaced, including *Change Reaction* who has provided \$500,000 for the various needs of families, house and personal items, hotel vouchers, and/or cash. Also, *Evident Change* and *Care Portal*, a faith-based organization, has also provided for the needs of displaced families. Additionally, DCFS has been providing gift cards to families for food and clothing.**

Director Brandon T. Nichols responded to questions posed by the Commissioners as follows:

- **Regarding reuniting displaced foster youth, and if there was expedited reunification with their families where safety is not an issue,**

Director Nichols provided an example of a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) that burned down due to the Eaton Fire displacing five children. The five children were placed as follows: one went to a Foster Family Agency; one went to Short Term Residential Treatment; one went to a resource home; one went to a non-relative extended family member, and one went to shelter care.

- Director Nichols was encouraged to read the 59-page Report on the Interconnectivity of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare in Los Angeles, and was asked about immigrant children who may be displaced due to their parent's deportation. Director Nichols responded that DCFS funds non-profit immigration attorneys to represent families within the child welfare system. However, he stressed that there may not be enough to meet the coming need. There is also an issue of families not wanting to be Live Scanned that hinders placement of family members. He noted that DCFS has programs to work with children within this population, however, it is less defined for parents.
- Vice-Chair Franco Vega reported that he has \$10,000 from Taco Bell that he would like to pass on to DCFS to be distributed to Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) who lost everything. Director Nichols referred him to the DCFS Board Liaison.
- Director Nichols indicated that they have not seen children being withheld from attending school due to fear of being picked up by ICE, however he is concerned about it.

III. PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation on Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Investigations: From Hotline to Completion of Investigation
 - Maria Griglio, Directing Attorney, Family Support and Advocacy Center, Children's Law Center of California (25-1195)

Maria Griglio, Directing Attorney, Family Support and Advocacy Center (FSAC), a funded project of the Children's Law Center of California (CLC), provided background on her career and work with DCFS. She presented a deck titled, Overview of a DCFS Investigation, that included the following topics:

- Disproportionality and Overreporting
- Referrals vs. Substantiated Referrals by Mandated Reported Type
- General Neglect
- Parents Maltreated as Children
- What Law is used during a Hotline Assessment

- **What Happens During a DCFS Investigation**
- **The Trauma of a DCFS Investigation.**
- **Consent vs. Warrant**
- **What Happens if an Allegation is Substantiated**
- **Child Abuse Central Index (CACI)**
- **What if DCFS wants to Detain a Child?**
- **What is Preventive Legal Advocacy?**
- **Why Preventative Legal Advocacy?**
- **How Preventative Program Helps to Reduce Trauma of Investigation**
- **Family Support and Advocacy Center (FSAC)**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the following was provided:

- **Funding can always shift; CLC is working with legislature to work on a bill for funding for preventative legal services.**
- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) survivors that are encountered are still relatively traumatized and are dealing with instability, there are better treatments than just talk therapy, including yoga and somatic therapeutic work.**
- **Approximately 60% of clients are domestic violence (DV) survivors. There is talk about guaranteed income for DV survivors, approximately \$1,000 a month that can help with rent and childcare.**
- **Emily Berger, Director, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL) stated that they are looking at changing the anonymous aspect of Hotline calls. Also, the Mandated Supporting Initiative will help. Vice-Chair Chandler-Cole indicated that there was legislation passed in January 2024 that made it illegal to make an anonymous call into the Hotline (AB 601).**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DECK](#)

7. Presentation on Dependency Hearings and the Impact on Parents.
Emily Berger, Director, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL)
Morgan Thompson, Staff Attorney, LADL (25-1205)

Emily Berger, Director, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL) provided a brief background and presented a deck titled, Empowering Families and Promoting Justice, Holistic Family Defense, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, that included the following topics:

- **LADL Community Outreach and Partnership Committee.**

- **What is Dependency Law?**
- **The Law, Welfare and Institutions Code §300.2**
- **Before a Case Opens**
- **Hidden Foster Care (Probate Legal Guardianships).**
- **Timeline for reunification**

Discussion ensued regarding victims being afraid to contact law enforcement, and the process for parents who have been deported and status of their children. LADL works with DIF (National System for Integral Family Development) in Mexico in an effort to reunite families.

Maria Gonzales, parent with lived experience, addressed the Commission. Ms. Berger continued her deck on the following topics:

- **Paper vs. Process**
- **Parents Legal Rights**
- **388 Motions**

Discussion ensued regarding the various avenues that help keep families together, i.e., Dream Court, a court in Los Angeles that serves trafficked youth, or children who have been sexually exploited. The court was created to help children by providing them with support and services. Also, the Compton HOPE Court, a children's court, which stands for Helping Our Parents Excel. Collaboration to mitigate generational patterns and impacts was suggested. Toxic stress was addressed and the quandary of parents whose children are in foster care, and not wanting them to obtain medical attention, etc. Ms. Berger stated that having access to more services is crucial along with family counseling.

Members of the public, Michelle Walker, Latia Suttle, and Tina Rios, addressed the Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DECK](#)

IV. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

8. Discussion and Approval of the Commission for Children and Families' 2025 Priorities. (25-0696)

A brief discussion ensued regarding outlining the priorities into a feasible workflow, and possible future presentations.

After discussion on motion of Commissioner Khushnuma Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Dora Jacildo, and duly carried (Commissioners Gabriela Eddy, Jeanette Mann, and Eli Romero and Chair Shimica Gaskins

being absent), the Commission for Children and Families' 2025 Priorities were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Discussion and Approval of the Commission for Children and Families' 2025 Proposed Presentations.

Note: Presentations are subject to change based on the needs of the Commission and availability of presenters. (25-0772)

By common consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to the next meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) not on the agenda, that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (25-0683)

No members of the public addressed the Commission

11. Adjournment. (25-0689)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.