



Evolving the Office of Child Protection and Redefining the Board Priority

Implementing the Updated Board Priority Through the OCP Strategic Plan and Countywide Prevention Planning

Purpose

- Board directed OCP to reimagine its role and reassess the Child Protection Priority through community engagement
- We will present today:
 - OCP's Reimagined Role
 - Community Feedback
 - OCP's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
 - Recommendations for redefining the Child Protection Priority

Who we are

The Office of Child Protection *reimagined*

OCP drives cross-system alignment and prevention strategy.



The Office of Child Protection (OCP) is Los Angeles County's **strategic hub for advancing child and family wellbeing policies.**

We align systems, support upstream prevention, and advance policy and systems change to benefit all LA County children, families, and communities.

Our impact to date

OCP drives system-wide change so children and families are better supported, safer, and more connected. A summary of our work to date and **past achievements** can be found on our [website](#). Some highlights include:

Completed or implementing all 51 Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection's systems improvement recommendations under OCP's purview

41% decrease in the rate of children in foster care in LA County since OCP's creation in 2015

Developed or improved 19 large-scale County programs or initiatives that provide direct services to children, youth, and families in prevention, education, health and behavioral health, and wellbeing

Led 18 multi-year, multi-agency systems improvement collaboratives that improved service delivery for children, youth, and families

Directly funded or secured funding for multiple prevention programs that deliver direct services to children, youth, and families:

- Secured over \$88 million in new funding for **prevention, home visiting, and early care/education**
- Provided \$6 million to County departments for prevention and promotion programming
- Provided \$5 million to the County's Prevention and Aftercare Networks
- Secured over \$14 million in public and private funding for Creative Wellbeing services
- Secured over \$4 million in substance use prevention and support services for youth and families
- Secured over \$3 million for transportation to school-of-origin for children in foster care
- Provided \$2 million to develop the award-winning **Emergency Response Investigation Service (ERIS) application**, giving social workers faster access to data during child abuse investigations

Provided \$4.5 million to support capacity building for the County's prevention and promotion framework

Community Engagement



Who We Heard From

325 Countywide participants

Engagement methods:

- 5 In-person regional listening sessions

- 5 virtual sessions

- 3 System-focused sessions

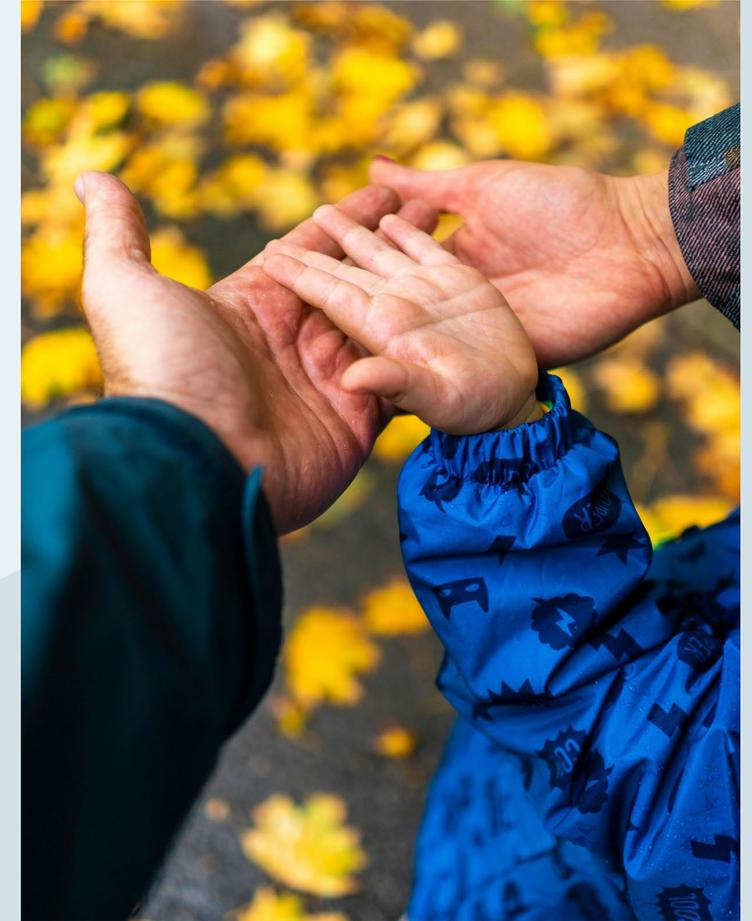
- Countywide survey

Prevention Means Family Well-Being

Participants consistently defined thriving as:

- Stable housing, food, childcare, healthcare
- Reduced stress for parents and caregivers
- Children feeling safe, supported, and connected
- Families able to plan and seek help early—without fear

“If parents are thriving, kids will thrive.”



Core Finding

Core Barriers

Identified

Prevention *reimagined*



- Access barriers—not lack of programs
 - Fear of surveillance delays help-seeking
 - Fragmented systems and repetitive assessments, and short-term pilots without sustained implementation
- “Don’t just give me a list—walk with me.”*

What Community Asked the County to Do

- Move away from fear-based “Child Protection” framing
- Center prevention, family stability, and dignity
- Align language and practice
- Use **existing prevention** work to **implement change**

“A rebrand without change just feels fake.”

“The name alone makes people shut down before they ever ask for help.”

Why Redefine the Priority



OCP Strategic Plan Overview

OCP 2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS

1

Building community pathways to upstream supports and services for families.

2

Enhancing the Children and Youth System of Care partnership.

3

Improving behavioral health and health outcomes for children and youth.

These focus areas provide the infrastructure to implement the updated Board Priority.

Strategic Plan + Listening Session Alignment

LISTENING FINDINGS

Access barriers

Fear of Systems

Fragmentation

Call for action

OCP STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Simplified pathways

Non-punitive prevention access, community capacity & trust

System of Care coordination and community pathways

Implementation through OCP Strategic Plan with Countywide prevention planning for children, youth and families as key execution pathway

- Prevention planning is an implementation pathway within OCP's Strategic Plan.
- OCP will integrate listening session recommendations into:
 - Countywide Prevention & Promotion Strategic Plan for Children, Youth and Families
 - Departmental workplans (as directed by the Board)
- Avoids duplicative planning and moves from listening to implementation

From Engagement to Implementation

Using Prevention Planning to Implement the Community Feedback

Recommendations

**Redefine the Board
Directed Priority**

From: Child Protection
To: Child, Youth, and
Family Well-Being

**Implement Through
Prevention Planning**

Anchor the priority in prevention and early support through the **OCP Strategic Plan and Countywide Prevention & Promotion Plan for Children, Youth and Families**

**Align Language
Through
Structural Change**

Improve access, coordination, and community partnership

**Center Economic
Stability in Prevention**

Integrate housing stability, childcare access, workforce pathways, and flexible financial supports

Implementation will occur through the OCP Strategic Plan and Countywide Prevention Planning for Children, Youth and Families.

Conclusion



What the Board's Action Achieves

- Aligns language, policy, and practice
- Leverages prevention planning already underway
- Reduces duplication and planning fatigue
- Moves the County toward a coordinated, prevention-first system