

REVISED

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND
HOLLY J. MITCHELL

March 17, 2026

**Redefining the Board Priority around Child Protection and Renaming the Office of
Child Protection**

On June 10, 2025, the Board of Supervisors passed the [Evolving the Office of Child Protection and Redefining the Board Priority Around Child Protection](#) motion. The Board directed the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to 1) adopt the priority areas identified in the OCP's December 2024 report back and develop a new strategic plan and 2) provide written recommendations on redefining the Board directed priority of Child Protection to include child and family wellbeing based on community stakeholder and lived experience feedback.

On February 10, 202~~5~~⁶, the OCP submitted their report back focused on redefining the Board directed Child Protection priority, ~~on February 10, 2026~~. The OCP hosted over 10 community listening sessions, with 325 total participants, 39% reporting lived experience, and conducted an online survey. The overall vision shared by participants

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was “children thrive when families are stable, supported, and safe enough to seek help early—without fear of punishment or surveillance.” This vision speaks to the [prevention work](#) this Board has prioritized over the last several years, as well as our “Care First, Jails Last” efforts related to justice reform, and work related to [housing and homelessness](#). The Board has also launched new initiatives to better support families’ capacity to meet their basic needs, including expanding home visiting services, the creation of BREATHE, the County’s guaranteed income program, and the Office of Food Systems. These various prevention initiatives, and others throughout County departments, are ongoing, as is the Board’s commitment to improving systems and outcomes for individuals and families throughout Los Angeles County. This approach leverages and supports implementation of existing Board-directed efforts — including [the Unified Prevention Framework for Children, Youth, and Families motion](#) and the development of the Countywide Prevention and Promotion Strategic Plan, Setting Youth Up for Success, [Strategically Aligning Los Angeles County’s Youth and Students’ Safe Spaces, Programming, and Services](#), [Strengthening Housing Supports and Coordination for Transition Age Youth](#), and related Care First and Community Investment initiatives — rather than creating new parallel initiatives. This is also in alignment with the strategic plan that OCP published in December 2025, including the priority areas for OCP adopted by the Board.

The report back contained several recommendations based on feedback from the listening sessions to better support child and family wellbeing. Participants emphasized stable housing, food security, economic stability, emotional support, and coordinated services as essential to family wellbeing. They also agree that no single department can meet family needs alone. Coordination across multiple departments and systems is

critical to reduce confusion and harm, streamline access, and get families that support they need when they need it. The language we use is also important. There was broad support for moving away from “Child Protection” as a framing, which many associate with fear and punishment. This Board has recognized that our families do not need protection from themselves, but instead, they need holistic supports, better coordination, healing, and justice.

The County’s children and families need and deserve the opportunity to be empowered so they can thrive. It is clear that child, youth and family wellbeing, which includes, but is not limited to, those who are system-impacted, must be elevated to better serve Angelinos throughout the County. This requires the Board to take action, changing the language we use and the way our County departments operate, to ensure that true child, youth and family wellbeing, as defined by our own constituents, is reflected.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to:

- 1) Work with the Chief Executive Office and Executive Office to immediately redefine the Board Directed Priority from “Child Protection” to “Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being” and direct the OCP to change its name to the “Office of Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being.”
 - a. The priority language should include both language from the County’s stated mission to protect children, support families, and champion success as well as explicitly reflect community members feedback, that supporting families is the most effective form of prevention.

- b. The new priority area should frame prevention, stability, family preservation, and economic and emotional well-being as core child protection strategies.
 - c. This change should be reflected ~~in~~ on all County websites, materials, and work moving forward.
- 2) Integrate the following structural implementation actions into their implementation of their strategic plan, as well as the Countywide Prevention and Promotion Strategic Plan: simplify access to programs and reduce system-induced harm; better coordinate a countywide network of care; and outline a strategy for investment in community capacity, workforce stability, and trust. As part of this work, the OCP should work with all relevant County department heads and initiative leads to incorporate these actions into their departmental workplans and strategic plans, consistent with the Unified Prevention Framework.
 - a. The OCP to include accountability mechanisms within the Prevention and Promotion Strategic Plan, including: clear communication with communities about what structural changes are being implemented and on what timeline; ongoing engagement of lived experts as partners in implementation and evaluation; identify and implement the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess whether families report feeling safer seeking help earlier and experiencing improved access and coordination including indicators such as early help-seeking, reduced crisis-driven system entry, improved service coordination, and family-reported trust and access.

WE, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board direct:

3) All County departments and County initiatives that provide direct services to children, youth and families to operationalize the redefined priority through departmental planning, budget decision-making, and performance alignment. This should be done by the end of FY 26-27.

a. Departments should prepare departmental workplans that discuss how they will:

- i. Prioritize effective prevention and early-intervention investments when making budgetary decisions, particularly those demonstrated to reduce entries and system involvement for children, youth, and families. This should include establishing guardrails that prevent effective prevention models from being cut from budgets without evaluation.
- ii. Align existing performance measures, where applicable, to emphasize prevention and positive family outcomes such as reduced removals, reduced crisis-driven entry, increased family stability, and increased engagement in positive, upstream supports, rather than creating new reporting requirements.
- iii. Enhance or integrate existing strategies—or develop new strategies—to address economic stressors for children, youth, and families.

- iv. Identify and address policy or administrative barriers across departments that unintentionally create access barriers or system-induced harm for families.

- v. Continue working to align or integrate data systems that support coordinated prevention and family well-being efforts.

- b. These written workplans should be submitted to the Board by June 30, 2027.

4) The OCP and relevant County departments integrate addressing basic needs and economic stability into the Prevention and Promotion Strategic Plan and departmental workplans, rather than treating them as ancillary or separate efforts. Economic stability should be recognized as a core child safety and maltreatment prevention strategy. As part of the ongoing work through the Prevention and Promotion Strategic Plan, departments should identify how existing programs and initiatives address economic stress for families they serve and where gaps remain. This should be done on an annual basis.

- a. Departments administering housing and homelessness programs, including Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Homeless Services and Housing and ~~Homeless~~, Department of Mental Health, Department of Youth Development, to align housing stability efforts as a core prevention strategy for children and families.

- b. Departments supporting childcare and early learning, including Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education, to explore ways to expand access to childcare,

including extended-hour childcare (e.g., early morning, evening, and non-traditional-hour care) to support working families.

- c. Departments focused on workforce development, including the Department of Economic Opportunity, to align workforce pathways and livable-wage strategies with family-serving systems.
- d. Departments and initiatives implementing direct financial assistance or guaranteed income pilots, including the Poverty Alleviation Initiative, to coordinate learning and explore expansion where evidence supports prevention and family stability outcome.

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