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Chief Executive Office.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Joseph M. Nicchitta

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

November 24, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPOINTMENT AND SALARY FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to appoint and set the salary for Lisa Mandel to serve as the Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for the County of Los Angeles (County).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Appoint Ms. Mandel to serve as the Director of DCFS at an annual salary of $385,000, effective November 24, 2026.

2. Instruct the Director of Personnel to prepare and execute the appropriate agreement with the Director of DCFS.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to appoint the Director of DCFS for the County and to set the salary for the position of Ms. Mandel.

Ms. Mandel is a public sector executive with more than 35 years of experience in government, child welfare, social services, and legal administration. Effective August 3, 2026, Ms. Mandel was appointed as the Interim Director for DCFS. Her prior experience includes serving as Acting Chief Deputy Director for DCFS, where she provided executive leadership over operations, budgeting, workforce development, and external partnerships. Before joining DCFS, Ms. Mandel held senior leadership positions with the offices of Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Zev Yaroslavsky. While

working for Supervisor Kuehl, Ms. Mandel served as the Chief of Staff responsible for all office operations, including communications, personnel, administrative, budget, and fiscal management. In the Office of Zev Yaroslavsky, Ms. Mandel worked as a Senior Deputy serving as a senior policy advisor on a wide range of social services, including child welfare, public social services, early education and care, juvenile justice, workforce development, child support, and community and senior services. Prior to joining the County, Ms. Mandel was a Legal Director at Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, a law firm providing quality representation to children in the child welfare/foster care system. In this capacity, Ms. Mandel was responsible for managing all aspects of the law firm's operations including policy development, human relations, finance, budget, recruiting, and labor negotiations.

Ms. Mandel earned a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Marymount University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Occidental College.

Given Ms. Mandel's education and experience, it is recommended that the Board appoint Ms. Mandel to serve as the Director of DCFS at an annual salary of $385,000 effective November 24, 2026.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of these recommendations will further the County's Strategic Plan North Star 3 – Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, Focus Area Goal B – Diverse and Inclusive Workforce, Strategy 2 – Fairness and Equity.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of the recommended salary will be absorbed within DCFS' budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended salary will provide appropriate compensation for Ms. Mandel to perform the duties of the Director of DCFS.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Implementation of these recommendations will provide leadership for DCFS.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Nicchitta
Chief Executive Officer

Joseph M. Nicchitta
Chief Executive Officer

JMN:JG:KLW:NV
AP:SO:AB:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Human Resources