

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

November 3, 2010

Reducing Duplication of Effort in Reporting Critical Child Data

On October 12, 2010, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directing the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and County Counsel, to compile vital Los Angeles County child death statistics from 1990 to 2010. Since that time, it has become clear that numerous entities within the County of Los Angeles compile data on child deaths and/or abuse and neglect, or conduct child fatality case reviews under legal authority. These include DCFS, the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Coroner’s Office, the Children’s Special Investigations Unit, and the Commission for Children and Families. Each agency interprets and establishes its own definitions and classification criteria to the data it produces and/or reviews. Due to the number of entities engaged in protecting the welfare of children, there is no single reliable source of information and data on which the Board can rely for a clear understanding of the facts. Furthermore, since DCFS cross-reports incidents of child abuse to City Attorney’s or City Prosecutor’s Offices countywide, presumably one or more of those offices also maintains child data on abuse, neglect and fatalities that occur within their

- MORE -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
November 3, 2010
PAGE 2**

respective jurisdictions.

Duplication of effort in these critical areas has neither served the public well nor has it been a good use of diminishing County resources. Considering the number of inquiries the Board has received requesting historical data in the areas of child abuse/neglect and child fatalities, it is imperative that reliable data in these categories is compiled, maintained, and interpreted through a consistent, standardized process and generated from one source. In so doing, Los Angeles County will be able to produce timely and accurate information to which the public and the Board are entitled. Critical to the goal of developing and implementing effective policies to improve child welfare service delivery for the protection of our County's most vulnerable children from harm is the overhauling and reorganization of how Los Angeles County's child welfare data is compiled, interpreted, organized and analyzed.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back in 30 days with a plan to designate a single County entity to be responsible for consistently tracking and compiling Los Angeles County data on child abuse, neglect and deaths.

###