

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS and  
SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

June 16, 2015

**Request the Interim Director of the Office of Child Protection to Establish a  
Philanthropy Liaison and Report Back**

The 2014 Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP) Report recommended that the County establish a closer working relationship with the philanthropic community to help improve the child protection system, noting that the Director of the Office of Child Protection (OCP):

should reach out to the philanthropic community and build strategic partnerships to help improve the child protection system. When this outreach strategy to philanthropy was used by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services in Pennsylvania, 15 foundations came together to partner with the County to create a more integrated system that they designed together. The power of public-private partnerships has been under-utilized by the County to date and should be an important strategy for improving services. (See page 13 of the BRCCP Report.)

On June 1, 2015, the Board received a letter signed by Christine Essel, President and CEO of Southern California Grantmakers, and Fred Ali, President and CEO of the Weingart Foundation, requesting that the Board consider establishing a philanthropy liaison within the OCP. The proposal was endorsed by ten major foundations: The

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Knabe	_____
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Ahmanson Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, California Community Foundation, The California Endowment, Hilton Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, UniHealth Foundation, and Weingart Foundation.

As referenced in the letter, there has been increasing recognition across the country among the government and philanthropic sectors that greater impact can be achieved by working together to solve problems of common interest. A 2012 report by the USC Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy highlighted many of the strategic partnership offices that have been established at the federal, state, and local levels with joint funding from the philanthropic and government sectors. The purpose of these offices is to ensure meaningful dialogue between governmental entities and foundations, evaluate possibilities of joint projects, and implement collaborative initiatives. The following governmental entities are illustrative of the range of these offices at all levels of government: the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Education, the State of Michigan, and the cities of Denver and Newark.

The recommendations presented by the BRCCP were widely supported by a coalition of private funders. These philanthropists have subsequently come together to form the Foster Care Funders Collaborative under the leadership of Southern California Grantmakers (SCG), a regional association representing over 200 grantmakers that builds relationships between the private and public sectors and enhances the impact of individual and collaborative projects for the public good.

The SCG's Funders Collaborative is specifically interested in identifying ways in which they can collectively work with Los Angeles County to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and families. A priority recommendation is to create a philanthropy liaison position within the recently created OCP. This position, as well as any necessary support, would be co-funded, initially for a period of three years, by the County and philanthropy.

The purpose of the philanthropy liaison would be to:

1. Facilitate ongoing cooperation and partnership between philanthropy and County agencies engaged with children and families, including: the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, Sheriff, and Probation, as well as the Los Angeles Office of Education, First 5 LA, LAHSA, and various commissions.
2. Develop a shared agenda for joint initiatives to ensure the health and well being of children within Los Angeles County.
3. In coordination with LA n Sync, a groundbreaking partnership initiated by the Annenberg Foundation, advocate for and work toward increased national philanthropic and federal funding support for Los Angeles County.
4. Proactively link nonprofit leaders and organizations to the work of the OCP and County departments.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Interim OCP Director, in consultation with the Interim CEO, to:

1. Work with Southern California Grantmakers to develop options for establishing a philanthropy liaison within OCP, as well as necessary support for that position.
2. Identify funding for this initiative through a combination of philanthropic donations and County resources, with the County share from the Provisional Financing Unit for implementing Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations.
3. Report back to the Board within 60 days with estimated costs and timeframes for implementing said options and transfer the County share of funding.

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