

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer



**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:**

**Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#**

### AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Office of Child Protection:** Progress Update on the Work of the Office of Child Protection.
  - b. **Department of Children and Family Services/ Auditor-Controller:** Debarment of Turmont Home for Boys, and its Principals, Agents and Employees at the Time of Alleged Actions.
- III. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment



JUDGE MICHAEL NASH (RET.)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
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January 31, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Judge Michael Nash (Ret.)  
Executive Director

## PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

In the final report of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP), [The Road to Safety for Our Children](#),<sup>1</sup> two key recommendations were to “establish an entity to oversee one unified child protection system,” and for it to create a strategic plan for the work it will focus on. On June 10, 2014, the Board adopted the recommendations contained within that BRCCP final report and took action to establish the Office of Child Protection (OCP) as a separate entity reporting directly to the Board and located within the Executive Office. In October 2016, the OCP submitted to the Board its Countywide Child Protection Strategic Plan, which categorizes the work across five goal areas: prevention, safety, permanency, well-being, and cross-cutting approaches. It has submitted quarterly updates on its progress since August 1, 2016; this is a report on its progress since the last update submitted on October 31, 2020.

**GOAL 1: PREVENTION** *Provide children and families with the upfront supports and services they need to prevent them from entering the child welfare system and/or limit their involvement with the system once they are known to it.*

In June 2017, the OCP released a prevention plan—written in collaboration with dozens of County departments, advocates, and community stakeholders—for enhancing prevention efforts across the county. Many successful initiatives came out of this work, moving us closer to the goal of providing primary prevention supports to families who want them (these efforts are highlighted in our annual prevention reports). More recently, additional endeavors have begun taking shape that hold the promise of moving this work to its next phase of implementation.

<sup>1</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/OCP Background/Blue Ribbon Commission Final Report \(04-18-2014\).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083549-867](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/OCP%20Background/Blue%20Ribbon%20Commission%20Final%20Report%20(04-18-2014).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083549-867)

From this point forward, we will report on our work through updates on these key initiatives, all of which include cross-departmental and cross-sector partnerships that are necessary for broadening the scope and deepening the foothold of prevention priorities in future.

- **Supporting Los Angeles County's Transition to Prioritizing Well-Being**

- ✧ Invest LA—Worked with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Casey Family Programs, and other key partners to continue developing the *Invest LA* plan that will guide DCFS's work over the next 5 years and ensure its alignment with other cross-sector prevention initiatives, including *Thriving Families*, *Safer Children* and *Family First*. The revised plan will be reviewed by DCFS leadership and the *Invest LA* Advisory Board in February.
- ✧ Family First Prevention Services Act—Los Angeles County submitted in August 2020 its recommendations for the evidence-based practices it wants to see included in the state's prevention plan, in addition to two memos with additional recommendations sent last summer/fall. The state anticipates sharing its draft plan for review in March/April 2021. Once finalized, it will be sent to the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for approval.
- ✧ Reimagining Safety—In November 2020, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion introduced by Supervisors Hahn and Ridley-Thomas, "Reimagining Safety Health and Human Services for the County's Children and Families," which calls for cross-departmental prevention planning (including funding analysis), a local and national best-practice review regarding equity solutions and prevention strategies, the improved integration of persons with lived experience into planning, and an equity audit of multiple departments. The OCP is supportive of this work and will help align it with other cross-departmental prevention efforts wherever possible.
- ✧ Information, Referral, and Connection System—Based on the capabilities observed during the Request for Information (RFI) vendor presentations for the Centralized Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Hub in July 2019, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Information Office (CIO), DCFS, and OCP jointly agreed that the TAY Hub's creation presents a strategic opportunity for the County to more effectively meet the service information and referral needs of County departments and specialized populations such as TAY. To this end, the CEO and CIO are collaborating with the OCP, County departments, and other stakeholders to include the TAY Hub in the procurement of a new information and referral service to be integrated with an enhanced Los Angeles County Community Information Exchange (LACCIE) that will initially be rolled out to meet the needs of TAY. This new approach leverages and combines existing CIO platforms/resources with new information and referral services to create a new countywide Information, Referral, and Connection (IR&C) system. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for establishing the IR&C system in Los Angeles County will be released in February 2021.

- **Ensuring That Community-Based Resources Thrive**

- ✧ Home Visitation—Partners are working together to expand home-visiting programs to all mothers across the county who want to participate.
  - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) was awarded \$1 million per year in California Home Visiting Innovation grants, which allow the County to continue its AAIMM (African American Infant and Maternal Mortality initiative) doula program through June 2023. This state funding supports DPH's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health division in not just sustaining but expanding this important pilot serving Black/African-American expectant families, including lactation support and enhanced postpartum support. DPH looks to serve 500 Black/African-American birthing persons over the next 2.5 years, as well as provide trainings to increase doula capacity over the life of the grant.
  - First 5 LA was awarded Home Visiting Coordination funding through First 5 California totaling \$200,000 across two fiscal years, FY 2020–2021 and FY 2021–2022, beginning in October 2020. First 5 California offered this funding to First 5 counties across California to create sustainable, unified systems that support increased numbers of families with home-visiting services. In Los Angeles County, funds will also support activities to develop and implement action plans for system-building, including initial work with a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) consultant to develop a master consent form for sharing home-visiting data at the County level, and providing a series of implementation retreats to strengthen coordination and communication.
  - Van Nuys Charities has made a \$100,000 new award to the County's Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP) to support collaboration among Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN), Peace Over Violence, CSP, and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in providing virtual trainings to the home-visiting workforce regarding domestic-violence prevention, detection, and intervention. These new funds recognize both the very successful partnership of these entities to upgrade those skills in that workforce from 2018 through 2020, plus the ongoing reality that virtual social work brings new challenges to ensuring that homes are safe and harmonious. County departments and UCLA partners will also be briefed on the availability of this curriculum to support virtual domestic-violence prevention through parallel County-sponsored social-service workforce groups.
  - DPH, First 5 LA, the CSP, Southern California Grantmakers (SCG), and multiple philanthropic partners are also addressing the need for technology so families may access virtual home-visiting services. DPH provided \$100,000 in funding for Chromebooks, broadband hotspots, and hotspot gift cards for up to 200 families participating in home visiting, and coordinated with First 5 LA and LABBN to oversee logistics, distribution, and oversight. First LA, CSP, SCG, the W.M. Keck Foundation, and the LA Partnership for Early Childhood

Investment together hosted a briefing at the SCG Health Funders Collaborative regarding the need for philanthropic support for technology.

- LABBN completed its strategic planning process for 2021 through 2023 with the facilitation of Gina Airey Consulting in December 2020. This strategic plan helps the organization to deepen its already crucial role in supporting excellence within our home-visiting system; it also continues to play a pivotal COVID-response role in the short term by providing technical assistance to home-visiting sites related to virtual visits, protocol adaptations, and peer learning/consult groups.
- ✧ Early Care and Education (ECE)—DPH’s Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) is working with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development and the Child Care Planning Committee to increase access to early care and education programs for interested parents. Recent OAECE activities and COVID-19 responses include:
  - Status of Child Care Services in Los Angeles County
    - Los Angeles County has a total of 5,385 licensed child care programs open out of 8,617 licensed programs, including 4,114 family child care homes and 1,271 centers. This represents 69% of licensed family child care homes and 48% of ECE centers.
    - The LA County ECE COVID-19 Response Team continues to distribute supplies to ECE providers across the county.
  - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Child Care Vouchers
    - As of December 30, 2020, a total of 10,515 applications were received, 8,016 from new participants and 2,499 from those who previously had state vouchers and therefore may continue services through the CARES Act. (Since the state voucher program has ended, Los Angeles County provides continued care to families in need.)
    - Submitted applications go to one of 11 local agencies for processing. If families reside in the City of Los Angeles, for example, they are given a city-funded voucher; if they live in Los Angeles County outside the Los Angeles city limits, they are given a County-funded voucher.
    - As of December 30, 2020, a total of 9,404 children received child care vouchers—5,961 from Los Angeles County and 3,443 from Los Angeles City. County child care vouchers served 822 infants, 891 toddlers, 1,844 preschool-age children, and 2,404 school-age children.

- The County program estimates \$13,522,649 in expenditures through December 30, 2020, for vouchers approved through that date. With the CARES Act contract extension, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles is currently assessing how long services can continue with remaining funds.
- COVID-19 Outbreaks at ECE Sites
  - Since Thanksgiving, ECE settings have experienced an average of 7 to 9 COVID-19 outbreaks every 7 days.
  - Once an outbreak is identified by DPH, OAECE connects the assigned public health nurse with a Community Care Licensing analyst to coordinate a joint site televisit.
- **Measuring Our Impact**
  - ✧ Measuring Prevention—Working with First 5 LA, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), DCFS, the Children’s Data Network, the CEO, the CIO, DPH, the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and other data experts to develop a set of standardized measures of prevention to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention-plan implementation efforts
    - Released the [Countywide Prevention Metrics preliminary report](#)<sup>2</sup> in November 2020. Countywide Prevention Metrics (CPM) is a standardized set of metrics to track our progress in achieving the goal of the Countywide Prevention Plan for every child to be healthy, to be growing and thriving in a strong family, and to be supported by a safe and nurturing community.

Given the expansive scope of CPM and the scale of the efforts required to collect, analyze, and publish all the relevant indicators, we are releasing the report in two phases. The preliminary report publishes 6 out of the 23 dashboards, covering child protection services involvement, disconnected youth, infant mortality, families experiencing financial insecurity, maternal mental health, and community safety. Additionally, the report outlines the background, the process, and the framework around which CPM was developed. The full report, to be released in late 2021, will publish 23 dashboards of *impact* and *actionable indicators* spanning the dimensions of *health, development, and well-being*, and *safety* across the ecological levels of *strong children, strong families, and strong communities*.
    - Engaging subject-matter experts and stakeholders to identify data indicators and sources for the full set of 23 CPM dashboards, outlined below:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://data.lacounty.gov/stories/s/tvyf-vhpc>

Countywide Prevention Metrics Impact Indicators			
	Safety	Development & Well-being	Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cumulative risk of CPS involvement</li> <li>Rate of preventable child injury</li> <li>Rate of preventable child death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate of chronic absenteeism among kindergarteners</li> <li>Rate of high school graduation / GED attainment</li> <li>Rate of disconnected youth</li> <li>Rate of college/career readiness</li> <li>Rate of juvenile arrests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate of full-term births</li> <li>Rate of infant mortality</li> <li>Percentage of children with healthy weight</li> <li>Rate of vaccine-preventable diseases (measles, mumps, pertussis)</li> <li>Rate of youth depression</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate of families experiencing domestic violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures of families experiencing financial insecurity</li> <li>Rate of perceived social support among parents</li> <li>Rate of families experiencing food insecurity</li> <li>Rate of families experiencing housing insecurity</li> <li>Rate of homeless families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures of maternal mental health</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures of perceived community safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community assets per capita</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate of access to healthy foods</li> </ul>

**GOAL 2: SAFETY** *Minimize, if not eliminate, the risk that a child known to one or more entities in our system will be harmed.*

### Implementation of Anthony A. Report Recommendations

On August 10, 2018, the OCP, DCFS, the Health Agency, DHS, and the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) filed a [joint response](#)<sup>3</sup> to the Board’s motion to review the case that included the death of 10-year-old Anthony Avalos. The report contained eight recommendations for systems improvements. A [six-month follow-up report](#)<sup>4</sup> on efforts to implement these recommendations was submitted to the Board on February 14, 2019. Implementation efforts to date on the recommendations are below.

#### 1) Reevaluate DCFS’s Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM) process.

The revised VFM policy was released on August 3, 2020, and now governs how VFM cases should be handled.

<sup>3</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Anthony A. Consolidated Report/OCP Coordinated Response to Anthony A Motion \(08-10-18\).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-073730-880](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Anthony A. Consolidated Report/OCP Coordinated Response to Anthony A Motion (08-10-18).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-073730-880)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Anthony A. Consolidated Report/OCP Coordinated Six-Month Follow-up to Anthony A Report Recommendations \(02-14-19\).pdf?ver=2019-02-15-154851-040](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Anthony A. Consolidated Report/OCP Coordinated Six-Month Follow-up to Anthony A Report Recommendations (02-14-19).pdf?ver=2019-02-15-154851-040)

**2) Improve the skills of staff interviewing children.**

A training video on different aspects of interviewing was released in June 2020 and is now required for children's social workers and their supervisors in both DCFS's emergency-response and continuing-services sections. Nineteen sessions were held through December 31, 2020; an additional 36 sessions are being scheduled through June 30, 2021, and 13 more through December 31, 2021. Of the 527 SCSWs, 217 have completed the training; full completion is targeted for June 30, 2021. Of the 2,683 CSWs, 246 have completed training; full completion is targeted for December 31, 2021.

**3) Retrain social workers on the proper use of Structured Decision Making® (SDM).**

See "Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation" on page 9 for a full description.

**4) Increase collaboration between DCFS and law enforcement.**

Work continues on developing a comprehensive DCFS/law-enforcement protocol. The workgroup includes the OCP, DCFS, County Counsel, and representatives from LASD, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the District Attorney, and other police agencies. The group has focused on identifying the roles of social workers and law-enforcement personnel in conducting joint investigations. The protocol will also include an easily understood section on the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (eSCARS) and its role in coordinating investigations by DCFS and law enforcement.

**5) Improve the Medical Hub system.**

See the "County Medical Hubs" section on page 18 for a full description.

**6) Improve the investigation skills of social workers at the front end and beyond.**

- All DCFS supervising social workers have completed the Supervisor Core Academy training, except for those newly promoted since August. Newly promoted SCSW training is targeted for March 2021.
- Since October 2020, DCFS's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Division completed most of its review focused on Federal Measure P1—Permanency within 12 months. CQI staff reviewed over 500 of the 800 children and youth in the representative sample (80% of the total population) who were removed from parental care in July through September 2018. A preliminary analysis of the completed review is in progress and should be shared with the DCFS Executive Team this month. The remaining cases will be reviewed and aggregate findings compiled during the first quarter of the year. Planning for Phase II, which includes



qualitative interviews of a subpopulation of youth and caregivers, began during the last quarter of 2020. The qualitative-interview model incorporates knowledge from various review processes, including the Child and Family Services Review and the now-sunsetted Qualitative Services Review.

- The CQI Division also began to develop various aspects of a tiered communications plan to allow for review findings and insights to be shared outside and across the organization. This included the development phase of an automated review database, communication with UCLA and DCFS training sections on the development of micro learnings focused on skill development, and holding CQI sessions in two regional offices to focus on skills supporting improved practices with managers and supervisors.

## **7) Improve the capacity to assess needs and progress made throughout the span of the case.**

DPH's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) unit, DMH, and DCFS partnered to outstation substance-abuse counselors in DCFS regional offices to provide on-site support and connections to further substance-abuse supports for those parents or youth who need them. These counselors were also available to consult with social workers on cases involving substance-abuse issues and to offer guidance on how best to handle them.

- A scaled-down version of the SUD-TIPS (Substance Use Disorder-Trauma-Informed Parent Support) program is in place, as DPH and DCFS were able to identify funding for 8 part-time counselors to continue this work in FY 2020-2021. They are stationed at Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) area offices and receive referrals directly from the DCFS offices aligned with them.
- DCFS and SAPC recently revised a form allowing referrals from CSWs to be submitted through encrypted e-mail directly to the appropriate SUD-TIPS counselor.
- DCFS is finalizing information about the program with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721 this month before formally sharing it with staff. Counselors have continued to process referrals received from DCFS offices and make connections to treatment when needed.
- We are assisting DPH's Domestic Violence Council with its efforts to outstation counselors with domestic-violence expertise at DCFS's Child Protection Hotline—counselors able to share their expertise and knowledge with social workers directly working with families affected by this issue.

## 8) Reduce social worker caseloads.

DCFS hired approximately 36 children's social workers (CSWs) this month and is planning to actively recruit and hire new CSWs every month thereafter. To help offset staffing needs in the interim, regional managers will balance staff resources as they presently do, between front-end investigatory and back-end maintenance work as necessary to maintain manageable workloads and meet operational needs. To help reduce existing caseloads, DCFS will continue using the Juvenile Dependency Court's stipulation processes to expedite matters deferred because of pandemic-related court closures, safely closing cases when jurisdiction is no longer warranted.

### Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation

- Partnering with DCFS to implement the recommendations outlined by the OCP in its [report of May 2017](#)<sup>5</sup>
- Evident Change, the organization formerly known as The National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD), has rolled out a series of trainings on the use of Structured Decision Making® (SDM) in Los Angeles County. These trainings are specifically designed for our region and include policy and practice changes implemented as a result of the SDM fidelity review. Initial trainings focus on the screening, removal, and case-opening decision process; later trainings in 2022 will focus on reunification, permanency, and case-closing decisions.
- Evident Change and DCFS developed a two-day remote "safety and risk" foundational training focused on best practices in safety assessment, safety planning, and risk assessment. Evident Change began these sessions in June 2020; to date, more than 2,775 staff have participated. DCFS University trainers continue to deliver this training; sessions are anticipated to be completed in March.
- Evident Change has been working with the DCFS policy unit to finalize policy changes to the SDM sections of the reunification, case-closure, and permanency sections of DCFS policy. Those changes should be finalized by the end of February 2021; updated training on this and the SDM tools associated with these decisions will follow later this year.
- Evident Change has partnered with leadership at the DCFS Child Protection Hotline and designed a curriculum specifically for Hotline staff focused on best practices in decision-making and in proper use of the SDM Hotline tool, and on integrating those with best practices in interviewing reporters who call the hotline.
- DCFS and Evident Change delivered 12 trainings for Hotline staff last fall: 2 half-day leadership trainings in early November 2020, 9 one-day foundational trainings in November and December 2020, and one "training for trainers" in October 2020 so

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<sup>5</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Safety and Risk Assessment/SDM and Predictive Analytics Report \(Risk Assessment Tools\) \(May 2017\).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083910-100](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Safety%20and%20Risk%20Assessment/SDM%20and%20Predictive%20Analytics%20Report%20(Risk%20Assessment%20Tools)%20(May%202017).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083910-100)

Hotline staff can continue using this material with their staff. More than 300 staff were trained.

- Evident Change delivered 6 half-day trainings in December 2020 and January 2021 to Intake Detention Control (IDC) and County Counsel warrant desk staff. This was designed to bring IDC and warrant desk staff up to date on emergency-response SDM staff trainings and expectations.

### **Use of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) in Child Welfare**

- The Child Welfare PHN (CWPHN) Steering Committee continues to meet and address issues resulting from the consolidation of the child-welfare PHNs into DPH, and has begun working to implement some of the recommendations from the OCP's report on the [\*Best Use of PHNs in Child Welfare\*](#)<sup>6</sup> (December 2017).

✧ A CWPHN Coronavirus Warmline launched in April 2020 to support the needs of DCFS and Probation families, clients, employees, contractors, and facility staff after hours and on weekends and holidays. A total of 921 non-duplicated COVID-19–related initial PHN consultations were logged between mid-April and December 30, 2020.

From October 1 through December 31, a total of 287 consultations were received. Approximately 97% of were for children involved with the foster care system; 16% were for children in home-of-parent placements. Most calls/questions were from relative/non-relative caregivers (40%), followed by short-term residential therapeutic programs/STRTPs (30%); inquiries from children's social workers and deputy probation officers accounted for 24% of the total. Interventions provided by the PHNs included sharing COVID-19 information and resources (88%), referring children to a primary care physician (48%), and making referrals to the DHS medical hubs, DPH provider line, or 2-1-1 (40%).

✧ The Budget Act of 2020, signed by Governor Newsom on June 29, 2020, included legislation sponsored by SEIU Local 721 for \$8.25 million to augment the CWPHN Early Intervention Program (EIP). The CWPHN Advisory Committee—composed of CWPHN program PHNs and clinical administrators, DCFS' children's social workers, and union representatives—met four times during this quarter to prepare for the implementation of EIP in 2021.

The CWPHN EIP Advisory Committee created a workplan to guide the program (once funding arrives) to:

- Navigate legislative, programmatic, and financing requirements to meet federal, state, and county needs and establish the necessary program and organizational agreements

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<sup>6</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Public Health Nurses in Child Welfare/01 Fourth 90-Day Report Best Use of PHNs \(12-08-2017\).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083842-860](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Public%20Health%20Nurses%20in%20Child%20Welfare/01%20Fourth%2090-Day%20Report%20Best%20Use%20of%20PHNs%20(12-08-2017).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083842-860)

- Determine and prioritize critical budgetary, resource allocation, information technology, staffing, and logistic needs
- Make programmatic adjustments necessary for enabling new EIP staffing and service delivery

DPH's Children's Medical Services (CMS) staff have met with representatives of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Department of Social Services to begin discussions on how EIP will move forward. Currently, CWPHN program staff are defining the intended scope of work as identifying services and interventions that are eligible for Medicaid Administration funding. Following DHCS' confirmation of those services and definition of the enhanced rates for staffing, CMS will work with the two state agencies to determine a final budget, finalize waiver amendments and inter-agency agreements, establish reporting and funding relationships, and ascertain and define target-population characteristics and eligibility.

### **Electronic Data-Sharing Efforts**

- Working with DCFS, the CIO, and County Counsel on a web-based portal to facilitate the electronic sharing of information relevant to investigations of child abuse or neglect across 6 County departments and DCFS, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the OCP finalized with participating departments, County Counsel, and the CEO
- ✧ Launched a revised Emergency Response Investigation Service (ERIS) designed to help streamline DCFS investigations and the placement of children with relatives when a removal is necessary. The new system—created by the Internal Services Department, the OCP, DCFS, and the CIO—adds data from other departments and includes changes suggested by users to improve system functioning.

It was launched in the Lancaster, South County, and West San Fernando Valley DCFS offices in December, and in the Emergency Response Command Post in January. Three additional offices are preparing for implementation—Compton/Carson, Belvedere, and Santa Fe Springs—and should be operational within the next few weeks.

- The OCP, County Counsel, and several state agencies worked with both California's Department of Justice and its Health and Human Services Agency to elucidate a part of the law regarding data matches. A joint letter by both agencies was released in September clarifying that California state law allows for direct system-to-system data matches across agencies so that jurisdictions can identify their "common clients" across departments. This clarification has significant implications for how California counties and the state work together to improve the coordination of care for clients served by multiple departments. We are working with County Counsel and the CIO's Information Management Committee to determine how best to put this into practice.

- Working with the Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services (LANES, a health information exchange system), DPH, County Counsel, DCFS, and the CEO to provide child-welfare teams with health information from LANES to support health care coordination and effective treatment for DCFS youth. Using LANES, child-welfare PHNs are able to view, download, and print timely, comprehensive health records for their clients and update children's social workers and caregivers, as appropriate, about client needs.
  - ✧ Launched the pilot on October 21, 2020, in three DCFS regional offices (Carson, Wateridge, and Pasadena) and one Medical Hub (MLK). PHNs use LANES as part of every consultation; in the first month, inquiries were made to review 386 client records.
  - ✧ With DPH and LANES, designed the workflow for the Smart Alerts feature, which will quickly notify DPH of clients' hospitalizations, emergency-room visits, and COVID-19 test results. Testing of this feature begins in early February.
  - ✧ Designed components of a multi-pronged evaluation that will include user input as well as administrative data, and started the evaluation through two surveys of users that provided feedback to LANES on ways to improve usability and efficiency for this user group.
  - ✧ Worked with DPH to modify timelines/workflow to address the redeployment of a substantial portion of the CWP/PHN team to support county COVID-19 efforts. The goal of these adjustments is to extend access to LANES to a number of key users as they find appropriate.
- The Education Coordinating Council (ECC), which functions under the OCP umbrella, has also made significant progress toward greater access to accurate and consistent education data for foster youth.
  - ✧ Between November 2020 and January 2021, LACOE trained 54 staff members at 12 school districts on the electronic Education Passport System (EPS). During this time period, district staff made 4,494 document searches and 2,878 student searches in EPS. To date, LACOE has trained 77 districts on EPS.
  - ✧ On October 23, OCP, DCFS, and LACOE launched a School Stability Transportation Module in EPS to help track school-of-origin transportation process indicators, including best-interest determination results. The LACOE EPS team has developed a training video and materials for school districts to navigate the module. OCP, DCFS, and the LACOE Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) are working with the LACOE EPS team to provide feedback on the training materials and develop an enhanced version of the best-interest determination module that incorporates additional feedback from DCFS and school districts. OCP, DCFS, and LACOE FYSCP are also working with the EPS team to develop a transportation module to track additional school-stability metrics, such as method of transportation.

**GOAL 3: PERMANENCY** *No child leaves the system without a permanent family or a responsible caring adult in his or her life.*

### **Increasing the Use of Relative Placements**

- The upfront family-finding (UFF) project continues in 10 DCFS offices: Belvedere, West Los Angeles, West San Fernando Valley, Santa Fe Springs, Glendora, Vermont Corridor, Santa Clarita, Wateridge, Hawthorne, and Lakewood.
- ✧ From January through December 2020, 4,250 children have been the subject of detention hearings in those offices; even in the face of the pandemic, 83% of those children were placed with kin following removal from their homes.
- ✧ The OCP worked with DCFS to submit a report to the Board of Supervisors laying out a plan of expansion of the pilot to the remaining DCFS offices. The board motion approving this expansion passed on January 26, 2021.
- ✧ Child Trends has completed its longitudinal study of the project, to be released in February. The draft of the report contains the following conclusions:

*“In summary, results from the expansion office study indicate that UFF appears to be implemented in these offices in a similar manner to the original pilot offices (COVID-19 notwithstanding) and that P3 workers are successfully engaging relatives and finding relative placements for children in the program. Findings indicate that the program can be scaled successfully throughout the county. Outcome findings from both pilot and expansion offices indicate that more children are being placed with relatives and these children are equally likely, compared to similar children placed with relatives in offices not implementing UFF, to experience stable placement with relatives and to reach permanency through reunification. Findings from the pilot offices further suggest that children placed with relatives through UFF have a higher likelihood of being adopted or having a finalized guardianship if they cannot be reunited with their parents.”*

### **Permanency and Self-Sufficiency Planning for Transition-Age Youth (TAY)**

- On September 4, 2019, the OCP submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors, [\*Increasing Stability and Permanency for Transition-Age Youth\*](#),<sup>7</sup> which contained recommendations from the OCP Permanency Workgroup on data, family reunification, DCFS’s Youth Permanency Units, and the Dave Thomas Foundation’s foster-child adoption project, “Wendy’s Wonderful Kids,” plus a draft analysis of programs and benefits available to eligible youth.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Permanency/Office of Child Protection \(OCP\) Stability and Permanency for TAY Report 09-04-2019 \(with attachments\).pdf?ver=2019-10-28-090046-917](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Permanency/Office%20of%20Child%20Protection%20(OCP)%20Stability%20and%20Permanency%20for%20TAY%20Report%2009-04-2019%20(with%20attachments).pdf?ver=2019-10-28-090046-917)

- ✧ The OCP Permanency Workgroup continues to meet monthly. DCFS provided the following data as of January 3, 2021:
  - 2,189 children have been freed with a plan of adoption and are awaiting adoption finalization, down from 2,462 the previous month
  - 1,222 have been in adoptive placement for more than six months, down from 1,368 the previous month
  - 293 adoptions were finalized in November 2020, bringing the yearly total through November to 1,528, down from 1,794 at the same time in 2019. The total for 2020 has not yet been tabulated.
  - 984 cases in the dependency court for 90 days or longer have not reached disposition, up from 943 in December but down from the high of 2,156 in July
- ✧ The workgroup continues to monitor data monthly and discuss ways to reduce these numbers along with the overall increase of children in the system, currently more than 38,000. The group is working with DCFS to disaggregate the numbers of children in various permanency categories, including adoption, legal guardianship, long-term foster care, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), and placed with a fit and willing relative.
- ✧ National Adoption Day was held virtually on November 21, 2020, finalizing approximately 250 adoptions. Thanks to the juvenile court, DCFS, the Alliance for Children's Rights, and Public Counsel Law Center, the event was a great success.
- ✧ DCFS has convened a multi-disciplinary group from within the Permanency Workgroup to review the adoption process with the goal of increasing efficiency to avoid future backlogs. That subgroup meets bi-monthly.
- ✧ The benefits chart created by OCP and other stakeholders has been completed and the group is exploring ways to create an interactive electronic version.

### **Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) Pilot**

- Bi-weekly meetings continue with stakeholders—including DCFS, DMH, Probation, the Juvenile Court, the Children's Law Center, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), County Counsel, and others—to discuss the multidisciplinary teaming pilot led by DCFS' Accelerated Placement Team (APT), along with DMH, to stabilize and find permanency for hard-to-place youth (overstays and chronic repeaters) at 10-day Temporary Shelter Care Facilities (TSCFs). The APT has named the special social workers staffing this effort "the OCP unit."
- Despite ongoing temporary closures of some of these facilities as a result of coronavirus outbreaks, the specialized unit has been able to keep the number of youth in these facilities at a manageable level.

**GOAL 4: WELL-BEING** *Ensure that system-involved youth achieve the physical, emotional, and social health needed to be successful.*

### **Efforts to Improve School Stability**

- Continuing to partner with DCFS, Los Angeles County school districts, and LACOE to implement the foster-youth school-stability provisions included in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - ✧ To date, 38 school districts have signed the long-term ESSA transportation MOU—Alhambra Unified, Antelope Valley Unified, Azusa, Basset Unified, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Charter Oak, Claremont, Compton, Culver City, Duarte, El Monte City, El Monte Union High School District, El Rancho Unified, Glendale Unified, Hacienda La Puente, Inglewood, Lancaster, Lennox, Los Angeles Unified School District (*which serves approximately 40% of the County's foster youth*), Monrovia, Montebello, Mountain View Elementary, Norwalk La Mirada, Palmdale, Paramount, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Marino, South Pasadena, South Whittier, Torrance, Walnut Valley, West Covina, Westside, Whittier Union High School District, and William S. Hart.
    - The ECC is engaging with the Long Beach Unified School District to facilitate agreement and sign-on to the MOU.
    - The 38 districts whose boards have signed the MOU serve approximately 75% of the County's foster youth.
  - ✧ The ECC and its ESSA Outreach Coordinator drafted a strategic plan that includes strategies to secure sustainable state funding to cover foster youth school-stability transportation costs for DCFS and school districts. The ESSA Outreach Coordinator will convene a workgroup of representatives from DCFS, LACOE, school districts, and youth in foster care—as well as child welfare and education advocates—to gather feedback and implement the strategic plan.
  - ✧ The ECC, DCFS, the Alliance for Children's Rights, and Children Now worked with the state to expand education travel reimbursement (ETR) payments to—in addition to caregivers—relatives and other trusted adults in a youth's life, ride-sharing services, and other contracted transportation companies. Utilizing private-vendor data from a pre-pandemic fiscal year, we estimate that DCFS will be able to use ETR funds to cover approximately 42% of its estimated school-stability transportation private-vendor costs.
  - ✧ Continue to participate in the DCFS/LACOE Partnership Workgroup addressing educational challenges experienced by foster youth during the pandemic, including training, tutoring, trauma, caregiver support, devices, internet access, STRTPs, and faith-based outreach. Partners have been able to connect youth requiring better technology with the resources they need to engage in school. Efforts are underway to check in with often-absent youth so assistance can be



provided to them and their caregivers. Next steps of this work include conducting trainings on how to support youth through online education, how to encourage academic participation, and how to access appropriate mental health resources.

- Working with John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) and relevant County departments to facilitate enhanced support for post-secondary educational attainment for youth in the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems, and to implement SB 12 provisions
  - ✧ DCFS, Probation, and LACOE are participating in the 2020–2021 California Foster Youth FAFSA® Challenge (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), designed to increase system-involved youths' access to financial aid for college by increasing FAFSA completion rates. Last year, Los Angeles County achieved a 68% completion rate for the FAFSA, surpassing its 65% goal, increasing system-involved youths' rate of completion by 7% compared to the previous year, and exceeding the rate of FAFSA completion by the eligible general population. This time, partners are working to achieve a 70% completion rate.
  - ✧ As a result of COVID-19, DCFS, Probation, LACOE, LAUSD, and the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) are working with JBAY and the OCP to develop creative solutions for reaching out to system-involved youth to provide support with completing the FAFSA virtually.
    - DCFS and LAUSD held 2 virtual-platform workshop sessions in November to assist youth with completing the FAFSA.
    - Probation supported a total of 31 youth in the camps and halls to complete their FAFSAs as of December 2020.
  - ✧ SB 860 was signed into law in 2020, clarifying the role of Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs) at county offices of education to include the coordination of efforts to support the completion of the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application by foster youth who are high school seniors. The bill also requires the inclusion of FAFSA/California Dream Act Application completion rates for those youth in FYSCPs' bi-annual reports.
  - ✧ JBAY, LACOE, and the OCP finalized a transition workplan in December 2020 for LACOE's FYSCP to take over the facilitation of the FAFSA Workgroup and coordinating efforts related to the FAFSA Challenge by June of 2021.

### **School-Based Healing-Informed Arts Education**

- Working with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), DMH, and the Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN, formerly the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network) to implement a healing-formed arts education pilot for middle and high schools with high numbers of foster and probation youth. The program will help youth build protective factors through the arts and will develop local networks of

mental-health clinicians, artists, teachers, and other stakeholders within schools and their surrounding communities.

- ◇ Because of school closures during COVID-19, DAC, DMH, and the ECC have pivoted to online programming.
  - DAC secured an additional \$10,000 in funding to provide virtual workshops to educators in October through December 2020. Partner districts include Antelope Valley Union High School, Pomona Unified, and Pasadena Unified, as well as districts that currently participate in LACOE's Technology Enhanced Arts Learning (TEAL) and the LACOE/DMH Suicide Prevention Ongoing Resiliency Training (SPORT) programs. DAC, AHJN, DMH, and the OCP worked together to integrate culturally relevant, responsive, and sustaining instruction into the training with the following themes:
    - Honoring and affirming the cultural backgrounds of students of color, creating an environment where they experience a feeling of belonging and mattering
    - Sharing strategies for how to connect with students' cultural knowledge and experiences
    - Allowing space to critically engage with how dominant power structures in society affect well-being, while sustaining cultural ways of being in communities of color
  - DAC has designated a portion of its Art for Justice funds to support another 24 "self-care space" workshops for educators, parents/caregivers, and County staff who support marginalized young people. The workshops launched January 15 and will run through early June 2021. DAC and AHJN are working with partner districts, including Pomona Unified, Pasadena Unified, and new partner Whittier City to embed the workshops into regularly scheduled time for professional development.
  - In Pasadena, a new parent and caregiver series will be folded into the DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Committee), and another family series is planned for the community surrounding the new Magic Johnson Park.
  - An open-session series will be made available to a new cohort of schools participating in the TEAL and SPORT programs, plus Arts Ed Collective partner districts. OCP and DAC are also exploring pathways to offer open sessions to DMH clinicians and DCFS children's social workers, as well as parents and caregivers.
  - The ECC is currently approaching philanthropic foundations to secure additional funding to support foster-youth engagement and mental health during this unprecedented time of crisis.

## **Educational Equity**

- Created a workgroup with DCFS and LACOE partners to focus on the issue of equity in education for system-involved youth.
  - ✧ Mapped out basic educational data outcomes based on demographics for high school seniors, and assessed gaps in the collection of demographic data

## **Workforce Development**

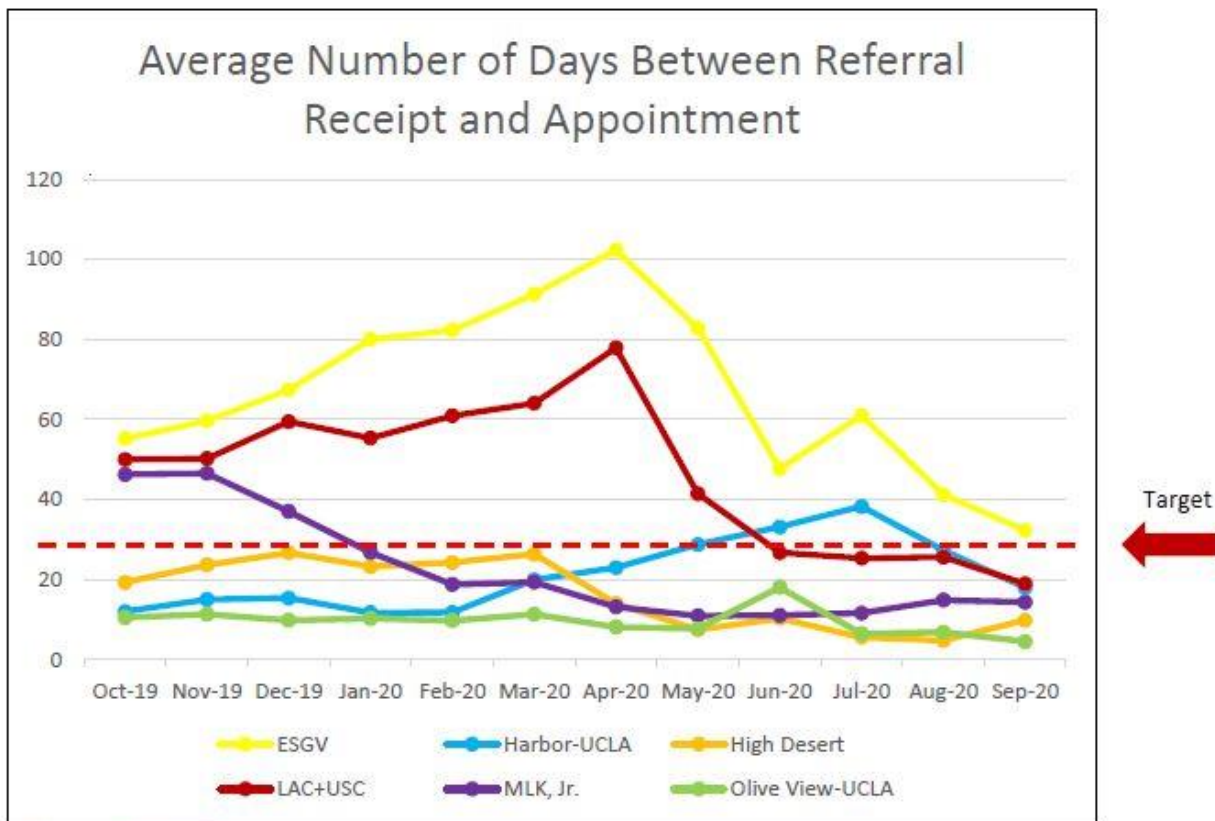
- WDACS expanded its virtual presence for easy access to services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - ✧ WDACS launched the Career EDGE virtual platform, allowing for youth to participate in 100 hours of subsidized learning. The platform supports the Earn and Learn model by offering virtual work experience to develop competencies and relevant job skills for a long-term career in an alternative to on-site, physical work experience. Youth learn about high-growth industry sectors in Los Angeles County and complete career-related exercises and activities.
  - ✧ WDACS launched a social-media recruitment effort utilizing Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Vimeo platforms. (The social media handle across all platforms is @County2Work.) This effort allows WDACS to target recruits, notify the public of special events, and share youth-workforce-related information. Several posts have already reached over 250 shares and reached over 1,000 individuals.
  - ✧ WDACS implemented a group in the Antelope Valley targeting foster youth with an interest in social services to develop their skills and knowledge in that area. Youth who complete the group's requirements will be placed in a career training program in the human-services field that will lead to a permanent career, ideally with a County department.

## **County Medical Hubs**

- Working with DHS, DCFS, DMH, and DPH to implement a detailed workplan to improve the overall Hub system, focusing on timely access to forensic exams and initial medical exams (IMEs) in the short term (Phase I) and potentially broadening Hub services in the longer term (Phase II). Examples of recent improvements include:
  - ✧ DHS and DPH continue to collaborate with and support DCFS on COVID-19 strategies for DCFS-involved children and families, including:
    - Providing a 24/7 COVID-19 Warmline through the LAC+USC Medical Hub to answer questions from DCFS staff and caregivers related to COVID-19 symptoms, if/when to test, and isolation/quarantine recommendations

- Providing access to the DPH Communicable Diseases Team to offer case-by-case input related to COVID-19 exposures, congregate-care facility strategies, etc.
  - Implementing a DCFS Ask-a-Doctor e-mail address to answer COVID-related and other medical questions from DCFS social workers
  - Providing limited hospital beds for children/youth needing isolation or quarantine until appropriate placement can be arranged
  - Providing rapid COVID-19 testing at three Medical Hubs—Harbor-UCLA, Olive View-UCLA, and LAC+USC—for asymptomatic children/youth who need tests for placements; DHS emergency departments and urgent-care clinics are also able to provide testing and evaluation of symptomatic youth
  - Disseminating multiple memos and flyers to both DCFS staff and caregivers about COVID exposure, testing options, isolation/quarantine strategies, and contact information for further questions
- ✧ OCP is working with DCFS, DHS, DMH, and DPH to develop further supports at the Hubs for caregivers and transition-age youth (TAY) that were identified through the 2019 Hub caregiver and community convenings, including:
- Finalizing a youth-friendly flier for TAY that explains the general and specialty services that are offered at the Hub system, provides resources for youth who are aging out of the foster care system, and answers frequently asked questions
- ✧ DHS continues to improve the availability of forensic and IME appointments at each Medical Hub. Recent data on the “third next available appointment” metric shows that, across the Hubs, IME appointments are available within two days and forensic evaluation appointments are available same day. The data in Figure 1 illustrates the average number of days between IME referrals and IME completion dates for newly detained children over the last year. While referrals to the Hubs continue to be down as a result of the pandemic, average IME completion times have lessened because of operational improvements and staff additions, with five of the six Hubs’ IME completion times averaging under the target of 30 days. The ESGV Hub also recently added several more medical providers, expanding its capacity for IMEs and forensic evaluations.

Figure 1.



Source: EmHub/Saga

\*Data reflect only those referrals where a scheduled appointment was made.

\*Data include calculations for "appointments completed within 60 days," therefore data lag 60 days.

### Dental Screenings and Exams

- Working with DCFS, DPH, DHS, and UCLA to develop a plan for increasing the number of foster youth receiving dental screenings and exams, when needed, within policy timeframes.
  - ✧ In December 2020, DCFS, the California Community College Chancellor's Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) program, and the OCP launched a children's oral health training for social workers and caregivers. The virtual training, adapted from the in-person oral health trainings implemented by DCFS and FKCE prior to the pandemic, covers oral health and the consequences of dental caries, keys to good oral health for children and youth, establishing a dental home, and information on community resources. As of January 6, 2021, 69 CSWs/SCSWs have completed the virtual training. FKCE is working with local community colleges to schedule oral health trainings for caregivers by spring 2021. The OCP will continue to work with DCFS and FKCE to disseminate the training to social workers and caregivers.

## **Mental Health Coordination**

- Working with DCFS and DMH to implement an independent evaluation of the Multi-disciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) and the overall front-end assessment process to help inform how mental health services can be streamlined for DCFS-involved youth. DCFS and DMH are jointly funding the evaluation, and the OCP is managing the independent contractor implementing the evaluation, the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS).
  - ✧ CIBHS has completed its analysis of data from the retrospective study period (January through June 2019). CIBHS and the OCP are working with DCFS and DMH to gather and securely transmit administrative and case data to CIBHS for the prospective study period (July through September 2020). We anticipate a draft evaluation report by May 2021.

## **Addressing Psychotropic Medication Use in Child Welfare**

- Monthly meetings of the Psychotropic Medication Workgroup continue, overseeing the implementation of all protocols related to the use of psychotropic medications for youth in out-of-home care in both the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems.
  - ✧ Quarterly updates of psychotropic medication data were received from DCFS and Probation.
    - DCFS data as of January 6, 2021, indicate that:
      - 1,587 children are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 8.36% of Los Angeles County foster children
      - 325 children are being administered anti-psychotic medications, which is 20.48% of foster children on medications
      - 788 children are being administered two or more medications, which 49.65% of foster children on medications
    - Probation data as of December 31, 2020, indicate that:
      - 29 youth who are suitably placed are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 7% of those in suitable placement
      - 1 youth in suitable placement is being administered anti-psychotic medication, which is less than 1% of that population
      - 12 youth in suitable placement are being administered more than one medication, which is 3% of that population
      - 29 of 53 youth placed at Dorothy Kirby Center were being administered psychotropic medications, which is 54.72% of youth at that location; 13 of those youth were on more than one medication

- 112 of 263 youth in juvenile halls were being administered psychotropic medications, which is 42.58% of that population; 52 of those youth were on more than one medication
  - 53 of 100 youth in probation camps were being administered psychotropic medications, which is 53% of that population; 19 of those youth are on more than one medication
- ✧ The Psychotropic Medication Youth Engagement Worksheet (YEW) is being administered in both systems. Probation continues to average over 30 completions per month. The DPH PHNs have initiated 1,199 YEWs through December 2020, with 671 completions.
- ✧ DMH's Juvenile Court Mental Health Unit states that prescribing physicians are in most cases reporting information on lab tests conducted on youth being administered psychotropic medication via the JV-220(A)–Physician's Statement—Attachment form. Workgroup monitoring of this information continues.

### **California Opioid and Stimulant Learning Collaborative**

With support from DCFS, Probation, DMH, DPH, the Juvenile Court, Children's Law Center, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc., and others, the OCP submitted an application on December 11, 2020, to participate as the Los Angeles County lead for a new statewide effort managed by the California Department of Health Care Services, California Health Policy Strategies, LLC, and Health Management Associates to establish regional learning collaboratives—"Effective Child Welfare and Justice Systems for Families Impacted by Opioid and Stimulant Use."

This technical-assistance project was open to teams from California counties interested in improving outcomes in child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems for those affected by opioid and stimulant use. The collaborative is designed to help county teams incorporate evidence-based practices for addiction treatment and will include support for all FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Los Angeles was selected as one of the 13 participating counties for this project, which will last from January 2021 to August 2022, with initial team meetings set for February 2021.

**GOAL 5: CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES** *Rethink structures, programs, and processes, on an ongoing basis, that impact multiple entities, to take advantage of new thinking and learning that meaningfully improves our child protection system.*

### **Dual-Status Youth Motion**

- Pursuant to the Board motion dated March 20, 2018, the OCP, in collaboration with multiple County stakeholders and others, continues to meet through its Dual-Status Youth Workgroup's two subcommittees—Delinquency Prevention and WIC 241.1 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).

- ✧ The Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee, led by Professor Denise Herz of California State University Los Angeles, has completed its draft recommendations on delinquency prevention. The report will be discussed at the subcommittee's February meeting before it is submitted to the Board.
- ✧ A complete draft of the WIC 241.1 protocol was presented to the Juvenile Court for review and approval in February 2020. Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Victor Greenberg has indicated that the Court has completed its work on the protocol and is discussing it with DCFS and Probation. The Court has thus far not shared its work with the committee, but we hope that will occur soon.

### **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth**

- In the recently released evaluation [\*Commercially Sexually Exploited Girls and Young Women Involved in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in Los Angeles County: An Exploration and Evaluation of Placement Experiences and Services Received\*](#),<sup>8</sup> two recommendations out of a total of eight were identified as short-term fixes that would help improve CSEC placement stability.

The first recommendation was to ensure that all service providers are properly trained on issues facing CSEC, such as non-judgmental communication skills, trauma and mental health, and recognizing signs of AWOL. The second supports a youth preference for placements in the most homelike environment possible, given the finding that CSEC placed in foster-family agency homes stayed significantly longer in those placements when specialized services were also provided to them.

- ✧ The Request for Proposal for a CSEC training entity was released to known CSEC service agencies identified by DCFS and Probation. The training entity should be identified by mid-February, with a contract in place by March 2021.
- ✧ The revised CSEC housing statement of work that consolidates Foster Family Agency (FFA) and Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) requirements was distributed for review; valuable feedback was received and is being incorporated. The sample contract—which will also need to incorporate FFA- and ISFC-required language—is in development.

### **Additional OCP Activities**

#### Recent Specialized Efforts

- Participated in the National Partnership for Child Safety Virtual Convening on November 4, 2020
- Participated in the Alternatives to Incarceration department directors' convening on November 16, 2020

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<sup>8</sup> [https://youthlaw.org/publication/csec\\_la\\_childwelfare\\_juvenilejustice/](https://youthlaw.org/publication/csec_la_childwelfare_juvenilejustice/)



- Panelist for a presentation to the County's Commission for Children and Families on implementing the upfront family-finding project on December 7, 2020
- Participated in DCFS's Annual Community Cultural Broker Summit on December 8, 2020, where Judge Nash received the "Equity Pathfinder Award"
- Presented virtually on the upfront family-finding project to the North Yorkshire County Council in the United Kingdom on January 8, 2021
- Coordinated a meeting of departmental leadership across multiple departments, the Juvenile Court, the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, and LACOE on January 8, 2021, to brainstorm ideas and discuss possible resources to assist with DCFS' recent placement issues with hard-to-place youth as a result of the pandemic. DCFS and DMH asked the OCP to lead an ongoing taskforce to address the issue; taskforce meetings will begin in February.
- Coordinated a meeting of providers with specific expertise in working with hard-to-place youth and County leadership on January 27, 2021, to gather additional ideas from their perspectives that could be implemented quickly to further address the issue
- Presented to DCFS regional managers on January 26, 2021, regarding our latest efforts to facilitate data-sharing across County departments for youth and families served by DCFS and Probation
- Panelist for a presentation to the County's Commission for Children and Families on January 11, 2021, on implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act
- Participated in interviews for selecting a new DCFS medical director

#### Ongoing Collaborative Efforts

- Participate on the Domestic Violence Child Welfare Policy subcommittee
- Participate on DCFS' and LACOE's Partnership Workgroup to ensure child safety during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Participate on the advisory board for DCFS's *Invest LA* initiative
- Partner with DCFS to co-lead its *Invest LA* community and cross-sector partnerships investment area team
- Participate on DCFS' leadership, advisory, and identification of evidence-based practices teams for Family First Prevention Services Act plan development
- Participate in the steering committee to establish a family treatment court in Los Angeles

- Participate on DCFS' Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD) workgroup
- Participate on the Project ABC Governance Board on serving young children and their families
- Participate on DPH's Office of Violence Prevention leadership committee
- Participate on the CIO's Business Management Committee and on its Information Management Committee for Countywide data-sharing
- Participate on DCFS's Structured Decision-Making Core Team
- Participate in DCFS's Administrative Review Round Tables (AART) and Child Fatality Roundtables

In summary, the OCP is working hard to accomplish its goals, as are the relevant County departments and a host of key community partners. We look forward to reporting further progress in our next quarterly update.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (213) 893-1152 or via email at [mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov), or your staff may contact Carrie Miller at (213) 893-0862 or via email at [cmiller@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:cmiller@ocp.lacounty.gov).

MN:eih

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Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
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Child Support Services  
Chief Information Office  
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County Counsel  
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Fire  
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Public Health  
Public Library  
Public Social Services  
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Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services