



## Board of Supervisors Family & Social Services Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

**DATE:** April 17, 2024

**TIME:** 1:30PM – 3:30PM

**MEETING CHAIRS:** Susan Kim & Lizzie Shuster, 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District

**CEO MEETING FACILITATOR:** Claudia Alarcon

**This meeting will be held in hybrid format which allows the public to participate virtually, or in-person, as permitted under the Board of Supervisors' March 19, 2024 order**

To participate in the meeting in-person, the meeting location is:

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
Room 140

To participate in the meeting virtually, please call teleconference number 1 (323) 776-6996 and enter the following 995 916 944# or

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Members of the Public may address the Family & Social Services Cluster on any agenda item during General Public Comment.

The meeting chair will determine the amount of time allowed for each item.

**THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL \*6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.**

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Consent Item(s)** (Any Information Item is subject to discussion and/or presentation at the request of two or more Board offices):
  - a. **Department of Children and Family Services:** Request for Approval to Extend a Sole Source Contract with the Los Angeles County Office of Education for Tutoring and Education Support Services.
- III. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Office of Child Protection (OCP):** Progress Update on the Work of the OCP.
- IV. **Public Comment**
- V. Standing item(s) and those continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- VI. **Adjournment**

## BOARD LETTER/MEMO CLUSTER FACT SHEET

 Board Letter

 Board Memo

 Other

<b>CLUSTER AGENDA REVIEW DATE</b>	4/17/2024	
<b>BOARD MEETING DATE</b>	5/7/2024	
<b>SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AFFECTED</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>DEPARTMENT(S)</b>	DCFS, Probation	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Foster Youth Tutoring Contract Extension (CFDA #93.658)	
<b>PROGRAM</b>	DCFS Foster Youth Tutoring	
<b>AUTHORIZES DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO DEPT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain why: The Contractor Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the primary educational authority in L.A. County and is best qualified to operate this on going program. This extends the existing contract (CFDA #93.658)	
<b>DEADLINES/ TIME CONSTRAINTS</b>	The current contract extension expires on May 31 <sup>st</sup> . 2024 and this extension needs to be in place at that time to allow for uninterrupted services.	
<b>COST &amp; FUNDING</b>	Total cost: \$3,250,000.	Funding source: 22.5% Federal. 77.5% Local
	TERMS (if applicable):	
	Explanation:	
<b>PURPOSE OF REQUEST</b>	To continue necessary and appropriate tutoring services to foster youth through an extension of the existing tutoring contract (CFDA #93.658)	
<b>BACKGROUND (include internal/external issues that may exist including any related motions)</b>	There are no known internal/external issues. The contract has been successful in addressing tutoring needs to the students it has served.	
<b>EQUITY INDEX OR LENS WAS UTILIZED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain how: The proposed contract extension serves foster children under the supervision of DCFS and Probation, in particular children of color, to improve and address school and academic barriers and challenges for high risk youth.	
<b>SUPPORTS ONE OF THE NINE BOARD PRIORITIES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please state which one(s) and explain how:. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty Alleviation Initiative. Proactively supporting the academic success of foster youth helps to break the cycle of poverty</li> <li>2. Child Protection. Supporting the stability and well being of the child through support for their academic progress.</li> </ol>	
<b>DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS</b>	Name, Title, Phone # & Email: Steve Sturm, CSA II, 213-814-9334, <a href="mailto:Sturms@dcfs.lacounty.gov">Sturms@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a> Will Cochran, CSA I, 562-345-6736, <a href="mailto:cochrw@dcfs.lacounty.gov">cochrw@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>	



County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602



BRANDON T. NICHOLS  
Director

JENNIE FERIA  
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors  
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Fourth District  
KATHRYN BARGER  
Fifth District

May 7, 2024

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO EXTEND A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR  
TUTORING AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation) request the Board's approval to extend a sole source contract with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for the provision of Tutoring and Education Support Services to children and youth for up to two years and six months.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to execute a contract amendment with LACOE to extend the provision of tutoring and education support services for DCFS supervised youth. The term of the contract will be extended effective June 1, 2024, or date of execution, for the initial six months with the option to extend up to two additional one-year renewal periods. The Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$1,300,000-, with the aggregate two years and six months funding amount of \$3,250,000. DCFS will contribute \$975,000 annually using 22.5 percent Federal funds and 77.5 percent Local funds, and Probation will contribute \$325,000 annually using 50 percent Federal funds and 50 percent net County cost (NCC).

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to exercise the two one-year extension options and the six-month extension option beyond November 30, 2026, if such time is necessary to complete the negotiation of a new contract, provided that: a) sufficient funding is available for the extension; b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to executing the extension; and c) the Director of DCFS, or designee, notifies the Board and Chief Executive Office (CEO), in writing, within ten business days after execution of such amendments.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to execute amendments to increase or decrease the Maximum Annual Contract Sum by up to 10 percent, if such an amendment is necessary to meet change in service demands and the necessary funds are available in the budget. Approval from County Counsel will be obtained prior to executing such amendment, and the Director of DCFS, or designee, will notify the Board and the CEO in writing within 10 business days after execution of such amendments.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to execute amendments to the contract for non-material changes, provided that: a) prior County Counsel approval is obtained; and b) the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, notifies the Board and CEO, in writing, within 10 business days after execution of such amendments.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to prepare and execute amendments to the contract for changes affecting the Statement of Work or to any of the terms and conditions included under this contract, provided that: a) amendments do not include cost of living adjustments; b) sufficient funding is available for increases; c) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to executing the amendments; and d) DCFS and Probation notify the Board and CEO, in writing, within ten business days of the execution of such amendments.-
6. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to terminate the contract in accordance with the termination provisions, including Termination for Convenience, provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to termination of contract;

and (b) DCFS and Probation notify the Board and CEO, in writing, within ten business days of termination.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The recommended actions will allow LACOE to continue to fulfill the DCFS' strong commitment to well-being and education to improve overall academic standing and school performance by providing tutoring and academic support to DCFS and Probation Youth in need of remedial assistance.

The children and youth supervised by DCFS and Probation require academic support at a much greater capacity than the County is currently able to provide, and through this sole source contract, the County will be able to more effectively meet this need and help the children and youth academically.

The Tutoring and Education Support Services contract is being amended to allow for additional years under the same terms and conditions. LACOE, a governmental entity charged with addressing educational oversight, is best qualified to continue to provide these services. LACOE is agreeable to continuing to act in this capacity and the amendment continues the services for six months for the initial contract term, with two one-year options for renewal. This will allow DCFS, Probation and LACOE to plan accordingly in allocating necessary resources.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 1 – Make Investments that Transform Lives and the DCFS' strong commitment to youth well-being and education. Pursuant to the Countywide Strategic Plan Section I.2.4, the County is committed to improving education outcomes of systems-involved youth.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Maximum Contract Sum is \$3,250,000. The maximum contract sum for the initial six-month contract extension period is \$650,000 of which DCFS will contribute \$487,500 and Probation will contribute \$162,500. The estimated Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$1,300,000 of which DCFS will contribute \$975,000 and Probation will contribute \$325,000.

All funds are based on availability. DCFS' portion will be financed using 22.5 percent Federal funds and 77.5 percent Local funds. Probation's portion will be financed using 50 percent Federal funds and 50 percent NCC.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

LACOE will subcontract services to provide tutoring and academic assistance to the youth.

Contracted tutors will coordinate with DCFS and Probation to support the students. DCFS and Probation will provide referrals to LACOE for tutoring and academic support consistent with the core academic content and instruction used by the local education agencies aligned with the State academic content standards. The primary areas of tutoring will be reading, language, art and mathematics.

LACOE shall provide tutoring sessions at a maximum of two hours per session, two sessions per week, and a total of 40 hours of services through this contract.

LACOE will be responsible for generating and submitting weekly reports, and for conducting pre and post-academic assessments to demonstrate a record of effectiveness in increasing the academic proficiency of the students. These tests will facilitate the tracking of students' academic progress. LACOE will be responsible to show improvement for 75 percent of all participating youth based on comparison of pre and post-test scores.

DCFS has determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) and Cost of Living Adjustment are not applicable to this contract.

County Counsel and the CEO have reviewed this Board Letter. County Counsel has approved this contract as to form.

Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contracts and Amendments, requires that the Board be notified if a department intends to extend the term of the current contract beyond its original term, if the extension was not previously solicited for, and this serves as that notification.

### **CONTRACT PROCESS**

Pursuant to the CDSS Manual of Operations, Section 23-600, Purchase of Service, Section 23-650.1.14, DCFS may procure a contract through negotiation with a public agency.

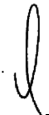
**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the contract will allow DCFS and Probation to enhance their efforts and provide tutoring and education support services for the children and youth. Through contracting with LACOE, the County will serve substantially more youth than would otherwise be served.

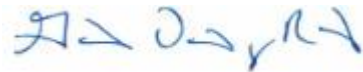
**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of the Board letter to Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Brandon T. Nichols  
Director



Guillermo Viera Rosa,  
Chief Probation Officer  
Probation Department

BTN:JF:CMM  
LTI:SS:TN:dj

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Probation Department



**AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE**

**CONTRACT NUMBER 15-0040**

**WITH**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**FOR**

**TUTORING AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**



**AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE  
TUTORING AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES  
CONTRACT NUMBER 15-0040**

This Amendment Number Five (“Amendment”) to Tutoring and Education Support Services Contract (“Contract”) with Los Angeles County Office of Education, is made and entered into by and between the County of Los Angeles (“COUNTY”), and Los Angeles County Office of Education (“CONTRACTOR”), on this 1st day of June, 2024.

**WHEREAS**, COUNTY and CONTRACTOR are parties to the Contract adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 31, 2017, and CONTRACTOR has been providing Tutoring and Education Support Services to the COUNTY; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Amendment is to modify the contract terms and conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, this Amendment is prepared pursuant to the provisions set forth in Part II, Standard Terms and Conditions, Sub-section 7.0, Changes and Amendments;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing and mutual consent herein contained, COUNTY and CONTRACTOR hereby agree to amend the Contract as follows:

**1. Part I, Unique Terms and Conditions, Section 2.0, Term, Subsection 2.1.3 is added to read as follows:**

2.1.2 The term of the contract shall be extended for a six-month period beginning June 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024, unless terminated earlier or extended, in whole or in part, as provided in this contract

**2. Part I, unit Terms and Conditions, Section 3.0, contract Sum, Subsection 3.1.5 is added to read as follows:**

3.1.5 The Maximum Contract amount for the period of June 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024, shall not exceed \$650,000.

**3. Standard Terms and Conditions, Subsection 8.32.5 CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE is added to read as follows:**

The Contractor must secure and maintain cyber liability insurance coverage with limits of \$ 1 million per occurrence and in the aggregate during the term of the Contract, including coverage for: network security liability; privacy liability; privacy regulatory proceeding, defense, response, expenses and fines; technology professional liability (errors and omissions); privacy breach expense reimbursement (liability arising from the loss of disclosure of County Information no matter how it occurs); system breach; denial or loss of service; introduction, implantation, or spread of malicious software code; unauthorized access to or use of computer systems; and Data/Information loss and business interruption;

any other liability or risk that arises out of the Contract. The Contractor must add the County as an additional insured to its cyber liability insurance policy and provide to the County certificates of insurance evidencing the foregoing upon the County's request. The procuring of the insurance described herein, or delivery of the certificates of insurance described herein, will not be construed as a limitation upon the Contractor's liability or as full performance of its indemnification obligations hereunder. No exclusion/restriction for unencrypted portable devices/media be on the policy.

4. **Standard Terms and Conditions, Section 8.65, compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices** has been replaced in its entirety and replaced as follows:

Contractor, and its subcontractors, must comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in [California Government Code Section 12952](#). Contractor's violation of this paragraph of the Contract may constitute a material breach of the Contract. In the event of such material breach, County may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Contract.

5. **Standard Terms and Conditions, Section 8.68, Counterparts and Electronic Signatures and Representations** is added to read as follows:

This Contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which together will constitute one and the same Contract. The facsimile, email or electronic signature of the Parties will be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies hereof will be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

The County and the Contractor hereby agree to regard electronic representations of original signatures of authorized officers of each party, when appearing in appropriate places on the Amendments prepared pursuant to Paragraph 8.1 (Amendments) and received via communications facilities (facsimile, email or electronic signature), as legally sufficient evidence that such legally binding signatures have been affixed to Amendments to this Contract.

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.**

**AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE  
TUTORING AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES  
CONTRACT NUMBER 15-0040**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Amendment Number Five to be subscribed on its behalf by the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Chief Probation Officer of the Probation Department the CONTRACTOR has caused this Amendment Number Five to be subscribed on its behalf by its duly authorized officer(s) as of the day, month and year first above written. The person(s) signing on behalf of the CONTRACTOR warrants under penalty of perjury that he or she is authorized to bind the CONTRACTOR in this Contract.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CONTRACTOR

Los Angeles County Office of Education

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brandon Nichols, Director  
Department of Children and Family  
Services

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guillermo Viera Rosa,  
Chief Probation Officer  
Probation Department

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Identification Number

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
BY THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL  
Dawyn R. Harrison, Interim County Counsel

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
David Beaudet, Senior Deputy County Counsel

## SOLE SOURCE CHECKLIST

Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Sole Source Contract
- Sole Source Amendment to Existing Contract

Date Existing Contract First Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Check (✓)	<b>JUSTIFICATION FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS</b> Identify applicable justification and provide documentation for each checked item.
	➤ Only one bona fide source (monopoly) for the service exists; performance and price competition are not available. A monopoly is an <i>“Exclusive control of the supply of any service in a given market. If more than one source in a given market exists, a monopoly does not exist.”</i>
	➤ Compliance with applicable statutory and/or regulatory provisions.
	➤ Compliance with State and/or federal programmatic requirements.
	➤ Services provided by other public or County-related entities.
	➤ Services are needed to address an emergent or related time-sensitive need.
	➤ The service provider(s) is required under the provisions of a grant or regulatory requirement.
	➤ Services are needed during the time period required to complete a solicitation for replacement services; provided services are needed for no more than 12 months from the expiration of an existing contract which has no available option periods.
	➤ Maintenance and support services are needed for an existing solution/system during the time to complete a solicitation for a new replacement solution/system; provided the services are needed for no more than 24 months from the expiration of an existing maintenance and support contract which has no available option periods.
	➤ Maintenance service agreements exist on equipment which must be serviced by the original equipment manufacturer or an authorized service representative.
	➤ It is more cost-effective to obtain services by exercising an option under an existing contract.
	➤ It is in the best economic interest of the County (e.g., significant costs and time to replace an existing system or infrastructure, administrative cost and time savings and excessive learning curve for a new service provider, etc.). In such cases, departments must demonstrate due diligence in qualifying the cost-savings or cost-avoidance associated with the best economic interest of the County.

\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive Office

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



Office of Child Protection  
Quarterly Update  
April 17, 2024

# OCP's Quarterly Updates to the Board

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- Filed quarterly since August 2016
- All quarterly updates, along with other reports and updates, available on OCP's website:
  - [Reports and Communications \(lacounty.gov\)](http://lacounty.gov)

# Building Community Pathways to Services

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- Intent of building Community Pathways is to create a no-wrong-door system so families can connect to FFPSA and other community-based promotion and prevention services through trusted partners and institutions they already engage with.
- Focus areas for OCP's Community Pathways work:
  - Referral pathways and resource navigation for families
  - Fiscal sustainability
  - State Block Grant-funded promotion & prevention pilots

***Aligns with FFPSA, Mandated Supporting Initiative, the Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee***

# Plans of Safe Care Background

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- Federal and state laws require that counties maintain:
  - Policies and procedures addressing the needs of infants prenatally exposed to substances, including the development of a Plan of Safe Care (POSC)
  - Procedures for making referrals to child welfare agencies by healthcare providers when necessary
- California state regulations are clear that substance use in and of itself should not trigger a referral to a child welfare agency unless there is an apparent child safety concern; healthcare providers should conduct a newborn risk assessment before consulting and/or making a referral to the child welfare agency
- OCP is leading LA County's POSC implementation efforts; LA County's POSC Collaborative includes DCFS, DPH, DHS, First 5 LA, MSI, private hospitals, and community-based organizations

***Goal is to ensure that pregnant people using substances and infants with prenatal substance exposure and their caregivers are assessed for needs/strengths and referred/linked to community-based services, ideally as upstream as possible***



# Plans of Safe Care Implementation Update

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- With funding from DCFS's State Block Grant and the recently awarded Road to Resilience Grant from CDSS's Office of Child Abuse Prevention, our Collaborative is:
  - Piloting the initiation of POSCs from hospital/healthcare settings at DHS's Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, St. Francis Medical Center, and Adventist Health White Memorial
  - Education and outreach on POSC requirements/resources to the 10 largest birthing hospitals in LA County
  - Researching fiscal sustainability options
- In partnership with MSI, POSC requirements/resources are available on the [new MSI website](#); and a POSC module is included in the new mandated reporter training for healthcare professionals

# TAY Benefits Eligibility Finder

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- Through OCP's Permanency Workgroup and with funding from the Rotary Club of Los Angeles and OCP, the TAY Benefits Eligibility Finder went live on DCFS' website in February 2023
- The Permanency Workgroup recently updated the benefits content; and OCP is funding a web designer to refine the application so that benefit results are more user-friendly
- [Benefits Eligibility Finder | Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/services/child-family-services/tay-benefits-eligibility-finder)
  - Benefit categories include: Basic Living, Health, Extended Foster Care, Education, Housing, Jobs and Workforce Development, Expectant/Parenting Youth, Taxes, and Social Security

# Education Coordinating Council Strategic Plan

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- Over the past year, OCP staff have worked to gather feedback from over 145 youth with lived expertise and representatives from 39 systems partners to inform the new ECC strategic plan
- Draft is currently with ECC members and constituents, including Board offices, for final review/feedback by April 26<sup>th</sup>
- ECC will vote on the strategic plan at its May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting

# Funding Expansion for Creative Wellbeing

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- OCP worked with the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), DMH, and DCFS to apply for Care First Community Investments funding to support the Creative Wellbeing Initiative – DAC has been awarded \$2.99M annually for 3 years to support culturally and community-centered arts and mental health engagement for young people ages 13-25
- OCP facilitates implementation of Creative Wellbeing programming for child welfare and justice-impacted youth and staff:
  - DCFS staff
  - STRTPs and FFAs
  - School districts
  - Juvenile halls/camps

# Supports for Youth with Complex Care Needs

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- OCP, working with the System of Care, will continue tracking implementation of action items from reports/recommendations submitted to the Board
- Near Peer Mentoring Pilot Expansion (SD3/SD4 Motion, December 2023)
  - Working with DCFS to expand the near peer mentoring pilot through a contract with Castillo Consulting Partners – anticipated contract start date of June 1, 2024
  - Partnering with Board offices and County departments and stakeholders to identify 1) the continuum of mentoring, peer support, credible messenger, and other similar programs and 2) sustainable funding streams for these programs
- Substance Use Supports
  - SUD policy update
  - Piloting SUD screening at the Medical Hub
  - Youth Opioid Response (YOR) grant – sustaining YOR efforts
- Child and Family Team (CFT)/Youth Engagement Workgroup
  - Developing trainings for youth on their rights around CFT meetings/process
  - Developing trainings – created and led by youth – on youth engagement for department/provider staff
  - Exploring models for youth peers to support/partner with youth in CFTs

# Incorporating Lived Expertise in Prevention and Youth-Focused Initiatives

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- OCP, working through one of our consultants, is providing gift cards to compensate those with lived expertise to participate and provide their expert guidance/feedback in our workgroups and initiatives
  - Examples: ECC strategic plan (in partnership with DCFS and Probation), complex care, CFT/youth engagement, Prevention Advisory Committee, pre-petition legal advocacy
- OCP and Casey Family Programs are jointly funding Castillo Consulting Partners to support and compensate a cohort of community and lived experts, including transition age youth, to consult with systems partners on prevention and youth-focused initiatives
  - Diverse cohort of 15 individuals with lived experience and expertise in child welfare and other social service systems (as parents, youth, and/or relative caregivers), and community members who are passionate about strengthening and supporting families in LA County
  - Cohort is consulting on: Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee, pre-petition legal advocacy, plans of safe care, community pathways, CFT/youth engagement, and foster youth education rights

# Strengthening LA County's System of Care

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- AB 2083 requires each county to have a System of Care partnership to ensure that all public programs for children, youth, and families provide services in an integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive, and evidence-based/best-practice manner
- Current LA County SOC includes DCFS, DMH, Probation, DHS, DPH, DPSS, LACOE, the Court, and the 7 Regional Centers – all of which are required to be part of the SOC, per AB 2083. AB 2083 also requires integration of tribal partners into the SOC, which we are working on
- In addition to the required departments, DYD is a partner in our SOC and OCP is providing backbone/facilitation support
- OCP has brought on Richard Knecht, a consultant with expertise on systems of care and integrated whole-child models of care for children and families, to provide strategic planning and coaching support for the SOC Interagency Leadership Team (ILT)
  - Identifying shared vision and priorities;
  - Developing recommendations for strengthening SOC administration, meeting structures, and the MOU; and
  - TA on the Interagency Placement Committee process, which will enhance how the departments serve their shared clients, particularly young people with complex unmet needs

# Maximizing CalAIM to Support Child Welfare-Impacted Children & Families

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- SD4 Motion (November 2023) directed OCP to enter into a contract with Health Management Associates (HMA) to provide TA to OCP, DCFS, other County departments and managed care plans (MCPs) on the implementation of CalAIM's enhanced care management (ECM) benefits for the child welfare population of focus
- Contract was executed at the end of January and work began in February
- Scope includes:
  - Identification and assessment of the ECM-eligible child-welfare population, including recommendations for transitioning to managed-care Medi-Cal to improve access
  - Facilitation of a joint MCP/County collaborative on ECM for child welfare
  - Creation of a workplan for the launch and ongoing implementation of ECM for child welfare
  - Technical assistance to DCFS, MCPs, and ECM-contracted providers on ECM implementation



# Maximizing CalAIM to Support Child Welfare-Impacted Children & Families

---

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# Questions & Discussion



# Progress Update as of January 31, 2024

**Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection**



500 West Temple Street, Room 383

Los Angeles, CA 90012

[ChildProtection@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:ChildProtection@ocp.lacounty.gov)

<http://ocp.lacounty.gov/>

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, 2023.

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***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.***

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

### Prevention Services to Promote Child and Family Well-Being

**BACKGROUND** The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in partnership with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, the OCP, the Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Health (DPH), and community partners, continues planning for Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) implementation, the County's Comprehensive Prevention Plan administration, State Block Grant (SBG) allocation, and advocacy. In addition, the OCP continues its collaboration with County departments, advocates, and community stakeholders to enhance prevention efforts across the county.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Community Pathways** In partnership with DCFS, First 5 LA, DPH, [Mandated Supporting Initiative](#) (MSI) leadership, Casey Family Programs, Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN), and provider agencies, OCP is co-developing the build-out of community pathways to FFPSA and other services, including home visiting, prevention and aftercare, and more.
- ❖ **Completed: Information & Referral Analysis and Recommendations** OCP, the Center for Strategic Partnerships, First 5 LA, LABBN, and DPH used grant funding from the Heising-Simons Foundation to hire a consultant to complete a referral-infrastructure landscape analysis and corresponding recommendations. The project's intent was to gain an updated understanding of what technology, staffing, and funding streams are optimal for building sustainable pathways for families to the community-based resources they need in Los Angeles. Report recommendations outline a family-centered, equitable approach that lifts up leading technological solutions, community network requirements, necessary training and planning elements, and new ways to leverage social media in conjunction with technological and staffing resources. It was vetted widely among community and County partners prior to finalization. OCP, Prevention & Promotion Governance Committee leadership, DCFS, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), and other partners are exploring alignments in technological and community investments to serve the report's recommendations, as well as to identify funding for any needed technology or staffing.
- ❖ **Launched: Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Home Visiting Community Pathways Pilot** The pilot testing Community Pathways between LAUSD teams into home-visiting programs—led by OCP in collaboration with LAUSD, First 5 LA, LABBN, and DPH—launched fully on November 1, 2023. This pathway represents an opportunity to better support vulnerable parents with young children in LAUSD, especially those with mental health and housing challenges, with connections to both FFPSA and non-FFPSA

parenting and coaching support. The training and effort gained rave reviews from all involved and we anticipate strong results in 2024.

- ❖ **Extended: Expenditure Timeframe for State Block Grant** The proposed 2024–2025 Governor’s Budget has extended the expenditure deadline for the State Block Grant to June 30, 2028. (These funds had previously been slated to expire on June 30, 2024.) This extension will increase the ability of OCP and its partners to maximize the impact of the prevention and promotion pilots they’re leading/collaborating on with support from this funding stream, including but not limited to Plans of Safe Care, Early Child Care and Developmental Intervention, the Mandated Supporting Initiative, and more. It should be noted, however, that the extension is subject to potential modification during the May revise and change prior to the final enacted budget.
- **Contractors Retained: Mandated Supporting Initiative** Utilizing SBG funds, MSI leadership has secured additional consultants and community partnerships to operationalize the initiative’s community-response components. MSI contracted with Evident Change for the continued development of the Los Angeles County Community Response Guide, as well as with select community-based organizations to provide supportive services to families as part of MSI Community Pathways.

## Ensuring That Community-Based Resources Thrive

### Home Visitation

**BACKGROUND** Partners continue working to expand home-visiting programs to all parents across the county who want to participate, and to improve equitable access and outcomes.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Extended: American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding** With advocacy from OCP, First 5 LA, and LABBN, DPH was able to extend ARP funding for home-visiting services until June 2025.
- **Potential Additional Family First Transition Act (FFTA) Funding** OCP continues to work with DPH and DCFS to explore the potential allocation of additional FFTA funds to home-visiting services in 2024–2026 as we await Family First billing ability.

### Early Care and Education (ECE)

**BACKGROUND** DPH’s Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) strengthens early care and education practice, policy, and systems across Los Angeles County, and continues to lead education and support for ECE providers and parents during COVID-19 recovery and adjustments to the ‘new normal.’ The OAECE envisions a high-quality ECE system accessible to all families that nurtures children’s healthy growth and early learning, fosters protective factors in families, and strengthens communities.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Awarded: Care First Community Investment (CFCI) Funds** In partnership with the Los Angeles County Justice, Care & Opportunities Department (JCOD), OAECE has been awarded an

annual allocation of \$2,990,000 in CFCI funding to support early care and education. The initiative, called Child Care Choices, will increase access to subsidized child care, especially for families living in under-resourced communities with high incarceration rates. The initiative uses a three-fold model.

#### ❖ Increase Awareness

- Since a significant public investment has been made recently in subsidized early care and education, the project will develop a countywide campaign—promotional materials, bus stop and Metro ads, ad placement in media in various languages, etc.—to let parents know how to access subsidized child care.

OAECE will partner with Resource and Referral/Alternative Payment agencies, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to distribute campaign materials, especially in the initiative’s targeted communities.

- To improve child care access for families, OAECE will convene the key stakeholders in the subsidized early care and education system to build a unified parent-friendly website that provides information on early care and education access and subsidy enrollment. Partners will include Resource and Referral agencies, LACOE, the Child Care Alliance of LA, and First 5 LA.

#### ❖ Strengthen Services

- Los Angeles County has a wide range of publicly-funded early care and education services for low-income families, including the California State Preschool Program, General Child Care, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs), Head Start, and Early Head Start. Transitional Kindergarten is also a new option for all four-year-old children.
- As part of the Child Care Choices initiative, OAECE will design a professional development program to train line staff who enroll families in subsidized care on a unified approach to all early care and education options for families. This will be a comprehensive training rooted in cultural curiosity and trauma-informed care embedded in a welcoming environment for families seeking child care.
- The training will be made available across the subsidized child care system, including Resource and Referral agencies, Alternative Payment agencies, DPSS, LACOE, and school-district staff.

#### ❖ Support Children

- To reduce barriers for the most vulnerable families, Child Care Choices will partner with Crystal Stairs, the Resource and Referral agency serving South and Central Los Angeles, to implement early care and education voucher programs in those geographic areas, providing vouchers in communities with some of the county’s highest incarceration rates, such as ZIP Codes 90052 (Downtown Los Angeles), 90058 (Vernon), and 90002 and 90059 (Watts).



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

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

**BACKGROUND** The Child Welfare Public Health Nursing (CWPHN) unit is a DPH program designed to provide public health nursing expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental health, and developmental needs of children and youth in the County's child-welfare system. The CWPHN program has two main components: the CWPHN General Program for children and youth in the child-welfare system primarily living with a biological parent or a relative legal guardian; and the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, focused on children and youth in the child-welfare system who have been placed in out-of-home care. DPH, DCFS, and OCP continue to collaborate on the best use of PHNs in child welfare.

**PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER** Per the recommendations in the [OCP Coordinated Follow-Up to Its 'Critical Incident in Norwalk' Report](#), OCP requested Casey Family Programs to facilitate a 'demonstration sprint' for the CWPHN General Program in DCFS's Palmdale and South County regional offices around DCFS-identified priority areas during the referral investigation stage. Casey Family Programs has facilitated the planning and implementation phase with regional offices, as well as with DCFS, DPH, and OCP.

In preparation for the program sustainability and scaling-up phases, the DCFS regional offices, DPH, and Casey are:

- Operationalizing a data-collection process (via an ad hoc tool) to assess the timeliness of critical workflow activities
- Analyzing received data for descriptive trends and gaps, and triangulating it alongside observational data and staff expertise to formulate findings
- Facilitating cross-office peer consultation and coaching to elevate and circulate best practices across roles and processes
- Elevating examples of regional-office practice 'bright spots' to program leaders and examining comparable national program models and interventions to fill knowledge gaps
- Socializing findings and recommendations with DCFS and DPH, and planning for sustainability and the scaling of best practices that emerge during the demonstration sprint

***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**

**PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER** The Family Finding and Engagement Program (FFEP), formerly known as Upfront Family Finding (UFF), has been countywide since July 2023. Data for calendar year 2023 show that, of the 5,570 children who were the subject of detention hearings in the 19 DCFS regional offices, 80% were initially placed with kin (i.e., non-offending parents, relatives, and non-related extended family members) after removal from their families.

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

**BACKGROUND** On September 4, 2019, the OCP submitted to the Board of Supervisors [Increasing Stability and Permanency for Transition-Age Youth](#), a report that contained recommendations for enhancing permanency for youth. The OCP Permanency Workgroup was formed and has met monthly since then. The workgroup has focused primarily on enhancing timelines in the dependency court for the disposition of cases and on reducing the backlog of children awaiting completion of their adoptions, a number which had recently grown to unprecedented levels. In addition to reducing case backlogs, the workgroup will attempt to focus on other permanency issues this coming year, such as increasing reunifications and reducing the number of youth who age out of the system. The good news is that as of November 2023, the number of youth under DCFS jurisdiction was 23,899, the lowest number in more than 30 years.

**PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER**

- DCFS provided the following data as of January 1, 2024:
  - ❖ The number of children freed for adoption was 3,469. While this number is still too high, it is the lowest in more than a year.
  - ❖ The number of children in adoptive placement for more than six months is 727, up from 704 last quarter.
  - ❖ The number of completed adoptions for 2023 was 2,316, the highest number of completed adoptions in more than 10 years; 2024 will require a similar number or better to reduce the current backlog, which is still too high. The three adoption days scheduled in 2024 at the Children's Court should help.
  - ❖ The number of cases in dependency court that have not reached disposition in 90 days was 304, up from 261 last quarter.
- With assistance from the workgroup, OCP has performed a content update to the electronic [benefits eligibility finder](#), and continues to work with its web designer to make the tool and the information it generates more user-friendly for consumers.

## Placement Stabilization Team for Transitional Shelter Care Facilities (TSCFs)

**BACKGROUND** The Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) pilot has been renamed the Placement Stabilization Team (PST) program. Bi-weekly meetings continue with stakeholders—DCFS, DMH, OCP, Probation, the juvenile court, the Children’s Law Center, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), County Counsel, and others—to discuss the multidisciplinary teaming designed to stabilize and find permanency for hard-to-place youth (overstays and chronic repeaters) at 10-day TSCFs.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **PST Program/Service Updates** During the past couple of quarters, the PST has faced unusual turnover with staff due to promotions, county transfers, and personal leaves. PST is actively looking to fill the current open vacancies and remains hopeful that in the new fiscal year, the program will be granted additional staffing (as previously reported).

As of January 19, 2024, PST was serving 107 youth. With the addition of the newest PST social worker in December 2023, the goal is to soon serve up to 120 youth. Once the program becomes fully staffed, capacity could expand up to 144 youth. PST will continue to advocate for additional staffing to ensure that DCFS’s highest-risk youth have an opportunity to be assigned a PST social worker.

PST team members continue their professional development by participating in case-related trainings, as well as a recent training from Regional Centers on how those services could best support PST youth.

- **PST Supports for Youth** PST continues to work collaboratively with DCFS regional offices and with youths’ mental health teams to ensure overall successful outcomes for PST youth. PST social workers continue to have at least one weekly meeting with each youth, in their current placement or as they attend outings together. In addition, they maintain frequent contact via texts and phone calls at all times of the day and night with the youth. PST social workers support their youth during their Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings and ‘get to know’ meetings with potential caregivers, and they are always there for youth during any mental health crisis. PST social workers not only build connections with the youth but create and bolster support by teaming with the youths’ caregivers.

During this past quarter, PST staff took their youth to college tours, introduced them to the beach, accompanied them to sporting events and job fairs, and worked out with them in the gym. One youth experienced Korean BBQ for the first time and was in complete shock that such food existed; others tried Chick-Fil-A for the first time. The youth benefit greatly from their visits with the PST social workers, who actively listen and maintain open communication with them.

- **Program Outcomes** DCFS continues to measure the impact of the PST program. Post-PST involvement, data show that youth are spending less time in TSCFs, and few are returning as their placements are stabilized. Moreover, PST youth are exiting congregate-care settings and entering more family settings. As youth prepare to become non-minor dependents, PST continues assisting them with housing options and readying them for their young adulthood. Many PST youth remain enrolled in some sort of schooling and/or are employed.

### Youth Summary: JE

*In April 2022, JE became a participant in the PST program. At the time of her entry, she was away from care and in an unapproved relative home setting, having experienced an extensive history of placements and mental health breakdowns, including suicidal ideations and disruptive mood dysregulation. JE also tended to shut down easily when she did not feel validated. She struggled to socialize with her peers, would regularly leave placement to hang out with random people, never attended school, and showed few to no aspirations to graduate high school.*

*JE agreed to be held accountable and supported by the PST team. As rapport grew with the PST team, she shared the grief and trauma of losing her twin sister at a young age, her relationships with her parents, and how she hates her father because of his continuous substance use and his physical aggression toward her and other family members. JE openly shared her anxiety as a minor in foster care, especially with all the unknowns in moving from placement to placement.*

*The PST social worker assured JE that the PST philosophy is for all minors to complete a pre-placement interview and have choice in their placement. She also explained that she and JE could have open communication, and that JE could contact the PST social worker 24/7 when needed. "You have a voice and a choice," the PST social worker told JE, "and I will work with you to advocate for your needs." JE replied that she was glad to hear that, as no one had ever done that for her.*

*With regard to placement, JE wanted to be the only foster child in the home, as she stated that she does not get along with peers. She also mentioned that she did not want to go back to a congregate-care setting. The PST social worker made a note of both. In May 2022, JE had an interview with a foster mother where she would be the only child in the home. She decided to go, but ended up leaving placement two days later.*

*Since then, the PST social worker has worked closely with JE's case-carrying social worker and paternal grandmother to figure out a safety plan that encourages JE to be in placement. As her rapport grew with the PST social worker, JE continued sharing her insecurities, fears, and worries. She agreed that, with the PST social worker's support, she would try to work toward decreasing those insecurities as well as addressing her fears. During PST weekly meetings and daily conversations, JE started to become more open. She tried to go back to school; she started to try therapy again, and she tried to be employed. (The PST social worker assisted JE in interviewing for a job at Olive Garden.) JE also opened up to the PST social worker about the pimp who sex-trafficked her in the past.*

*As time went by, JE's mood shifted from not caring to being more receptive to getting the help she needs. JE and the PST social worker continued to talk every day; JE would ask for advice, and the PST social worker would validate and help her navigate her feelings.*

*During this time, JE was open to reconnecting with a family member with whom she had been placed when she was younger, and who stated that she was willing to take JE. As a year went by with ongoing encouragement from the team, JE moved in with the family member in May 2023. JE continues to get along with her family member and remains living there today with her three-month-old baby.*

*Within the 20 months of PST involvement, JE has gained independent-living skills in preparation for her transition to adulthood and has maintained stability for herself and for her infant daughter. She worked toward her goals to be a good mother to her young child, and has also expressed interest in going back to online school once the baby is older. JE's family members and her informal supports have thanked the PST social worker for supporting both them and JE to ensure that she is stable for herself and for her child. She has been doing a phenomenal job as a young and single mother.*

## ***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**

**BACKGROUND** Members of the [Education Coordinating Council](#) (ECC), including DCFS, Los Angeles County school districts, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), are working to implement the foster-youth school-stability provisions included in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

#### **PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER**

- **Implementing/Expanding School-Stability Transportation for Youth in Foster Care** To date, 51 school districts have signed the long-term ESSA school-stability Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and DCFS has also secured MOU sign-ons from 19 charter schools, including 7 since our last report: Da Vinci School RISE High, five charter schools under Learn4Life (Alta Vista Innovation High School, Antelope Valley Learning Academy, Assurance Learning Academy, Desert Sands Charter High School, and Mission View Public Charter School), and Vista Charter Middle School. Districts having signed the MOU serve approximately 85% of the County's youth in foster care. DCFS, LACOE, and OCP continue to provide information regarding the MOU to interested school districts and charter schools.
- **Chronic Absenteeism** The UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools continues its study of chronic absenteeism and how it relates to the intersection of school stability, well-being, and equity. This report should be finalized by end of June 2024.
  - ❖ UCLA has conducted interviews with close to 20 staff members from the Alliance for Children's Rights, DCFS, LACOE, OCP, and school-district foster youth liaisons. An analysis of the qualitative interviews has been completed.
  - ❖ UCLA is in the process of recruiting foster-youth and caregiver participants for the second phase of the study, in which they will gather information on school stability/instability history and experiences with school-of-origin transportation.
  - ❖ The Long Beach Unified School District has agreed to allow UCLA access to student-level administrative data; UCLA has begun analyzing this to identify patterns in and factors affecting absenteeism within foster youth.

### **Implementation of the Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act**

**BACKGROUND** Members of the ECC, including DCFS, Children's Law Center (CLC), and LACOE, are working to implement SB 89, the [Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act](#), to ensure that DCFS can track whether or not youth in foster care receive comprehensive sexual health education that meets the California Healthy Youth Act standards, at least once in middle school and once in high school, as required by SB 89. Data shows that, as a result of school and placement instability, many youth in foster care have inconsistent access to sexual health education, and that almost half of

females in foster care have been pregnant two or more times by the time they are 19 years old, circumstances that affect post-secondary education and employment opportunities.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Assessing Compliance with SB 89** Working with DCFS and LACOE to develop a process to track compliance with SB 89 and the availability of comprehensive sexual health education at schools for youth in foster care
  - ❖ OCP, DCFS, and LACOE convened a meeting with school districts serving high numbers of youth in foster care, as well as staff from the Children’s Law Center, that included:
    - A presentation by the Pomona Unified School District on how it has leveraged its local Student Information System to track SB 89 requirements
    - Information from LACOE’s California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) lead on district curriculum requirements for providing comprehensive sexual health education
  - ❖ OCP and LACOE have developed and implemented a survey to collect data from school districts on their information systems’ capacity to inform a countywide solution for tracking and submitting SB 89 requirements and providing that information to DCFS to include in court reports.

### Education Coordinating Council (ECC) Strategic Plan

**BACKGROUND** Members and constituents of the ECC (a Board-created advisory body that includes DCFS, Probation, DMH, superintendents from Los Angeles County school districts, advocates, philanthropy, community-based organizations, as well as youth and adults with lived expertise) are being convened to provide input on a new ECC strategic plan, a process that should continue through mid-2024.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Gathering Input** The OCP is conducting interviews/focus groups with ECC members and constituents to hear their thoughts on the structure of the Council as well as to determine key system-youth education priorities for the Council to tackle.
  - ❖ At the [November 8, 2023, ECC meeting](#), OCP staff presented an initial analysis of feedback from youth with lived expertise and systems partners, along with a draft ECC logic model outline including proposed ECC focus areas based on that feedback. ECC members and constituents commented on those proposed focus areas/shared outcomes and OCP staff are incorporating those responses into a draft strategic plan for the ECC’s future work.
  - ❖ The OCP continued holding listening sessions with systems partners, including with DCFS social workers, the Pasadena Unified School District, and the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s office. A further listening session with youth at the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall is scheduled for February 2024.



- ❖ In February and March 2024, the OCP will convene small-group meetings around each of the proposed ECC focus areas to finalize activities/action steps and support ECC members in accomplishing the proposed outcomes. Input from these meetings will be integrated into the draft strategic plan, which should be finalized in April 2024.

## Creative Wellbeing

**BACKGROUND** Working with the Creative Wellbeing Team—the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), DMH, and the [Arts for Healing and Justice Network](#) (AHJN)—to implement culturally relevant, healing-centered arts education that builds mental health protective factors for youth involved with Los Angeles County’s child-welfare system and those who serve them. Creative Wellbeing is a non-traditional approach that integrates arts and mental health strategies to support social/emotional development and healing from trauma.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Awarded: CFCI Funding** OCP worked with DAC, DMH, and DCFS to apply for Care First Community Investment (CFCI) funding to support the Creative Wellbeing Initiative. As part of the CFCI Year 3 Spending Plan, DAC has been awarded \$2.99M annually for three years to support culturally and community-centered arts and mental health engagement for young people ages 13 to 25.
- **Trainings in DCFS Monthly Catalogs** Following an OCP-facilitated convening between DAC and the DCFS training unit, DCFS confirmed that all future Wellbeing4LA Learning Center Creative Wellbeing trainings will be incorporated into each DCFS Monthly Training Catalog.
- **Facility Programming** OCP and DAC continue to work with DCFS to provide STRTP and Foster Family Agency (FFA) providers with the Creative Wellbeing approach and services. Sites/programs added this quarter include Sycamores, Families Uniting Families and Project Fatherhood, Extraordinary Families, Aviva, and Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services.
- **School-District Programming** Therapeutic grief and loss artist residencies for students who have recently lost parents and caregivers (from COVID or other causes) are taking place at Crete Academy, a public charter school in South Los Angeles, and planning is underway to adapt this model for a student bereavement group at the Alliance Morgan McKinzie public charter high school in East Los Angeles.
- **Added: Department Partners** Artist-facilitated Creative Wellbeing activities are now being incorporated into the Department of Health Services’ (DHS) Ambulatory Care Services (ACN) quarterly town halls. In addition, DPH’s Office of Violence Prevention will incorporate Creative Wellbeing activities into all five [Rise, Reclaim, Restore Youth Mental Health Summits](#) that started January 20 and run through April 27.



## Addressing Youth With Complex Unmet Needs

**BACKGROUND** DCFS, DMH, Probation, OCP, and other system of care partners continue implementing the June 2021 recommendations contained in [A Report from the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program \(STRTP\) Task Force](#), as well as the recommendations in the [30-day report-back](#) jointly submitted by OCP and DCFS to the Board of Supervisors on March 7, 2023, on placements and interventions for youth in foster care with the highest complex needs. On October 17, the Board passed a [motion](#) directing DCFS, OCP, CEO, DMH, DPH, DHS, Probation, the Department of Youth Development (DYD), and others to report back in 60 days on addressing supports for youth with complex care needs.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Crisis Response Protocol/Gaps in Care** In response to the October 17 Board motion, OCP, DCFS, and CEO convened a multiagency workgroup to develop recommendations for a crisis response protocol and addressing program or service gaps in the continuum of care for youth with complex unmet needs. The Board granted a 60-day extension on the report-back and we anticipate submitting that in mid-February.
- **Behavioral Supports** OCP continued to convene cross-departmental system partners to develop recommendations for behavioral supports for youth with complex care needs; these will be incorporated into the report-back to the October 17 Board motion. The OCP worked with DCFS and DMH to conduct an analysis with staff and providers of common issues, barriers, and solutions for care coordination that have been successful with high acuity youth. Recommendation areas fell into two categories—enhanced training and support for care and supervision staff and increased consistency across staff to support youth engagement and rapport building.
- **Pilot Expansion: Near-Peer Mentoring** On December 19, 2023, the Board of Supervisors passed a [motion](#) directing DCFS to contract with Castillo Consulting Partners (CCP) for a one-year term to expand its near-peer mentoring pilot to all DCFS TSCFs. OCP had been partnering with DCFS, Casey Family Programs, and others to expand peer support and mentoring services for young people—especially those with the most complex unmet needs who face placement instability—and is now working with DCFS and CCP on the scope of work for this pilot expansion. Per the Board motion, OCP will also work with DCFS to collaborate with a number of youth-serving departments to identify funding streams and strategies to expand and sustain mentoring, peer/near-peer support, credible messengers, and other similar programs for child welfare and justice-involved children and youth.
- **Engagement Team** Since our last report, DMH resolved the cease-and-desist notice with its union on the engagement team and began accepting referrals on November 28, 2023. To date, the team has received four referrals from DCFS. In each case, DMH clinicians actively engaged the youth and their caregivers. As a result, one youth agreed to accept services and was successfully connected to an Intensive Field Capable Clinical Services (IFCCS) provider. The remaining three youth have been actively involved with the engagement-team clinician, who continues to provide support and engagement. Placements for all four referred youth have stabilized.

DMH and DCFS program leads communicate regularly to identify youth for the program and refine the referral workflow. The DMH engagement team meets weekly to discuss referred youths' progress and address any systemic barriers. The DMH and DCFS teams have also developed a monthly countywide meeting at which staff discuss cases, address challenges, and share resources. DCFS is actively working to identify additional youth for the program, and DMH expects four additional referrals shortly.

- **Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists** As of January 17, 2024, 1,080 individuals with lived experience have submitted registrations with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) to become State Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists. The active number of registrations, subtracting the denied/expired applications (277) and duplicates (14) is 789. Of these, 463 (58.5%) have been certified.
- **Grant Award** On December 21, 2023, DMH received notification of its \$750,000 award from the California Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) *Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Grant Program Round Two: Trauma-Informed Programs and Practices*. This two-year grant is to create an infrastructure that supports an effective EBP Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) learning network with DMH as lead in collaboration with DCFS (Placement Stability and Intensive Foster Care Units) and Probation (Placement Services Bureau) as sub-recipients, to expand the use of DBT across Los Angeles County's child-welfare system.

The responsibility for this grant implementation is with DMH's Prevention Division's Early Intervention team in close collaboration with the Child Welfare Division. DMH awaits final grant approval while completing a series of deliverables delineated by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and its third-party administrator, the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), along with [Heluna Health](#).

- **CFT/Youth Engagement** The OCP and DCFS continue to co-lead a Child and Family Team (CFT)/Youth Engagement workgroup to find ways to enhance youth voice and participation in the CFT process and engagement practices. The workgroup includes all relevant stakeholders—legal partners, community agencies, STRTP providers, lived experts, and other child-serving departments—and the OCP is partnering with the National Foster Youth Institute (NFYI) to increase lived-expert participation.
  - ❖ **Youth Support** OCP/NFYI supports a cohort of four to five transition-age youth with lived expertise to participate in the workgroup and on developing a curriculum for child-serving departmental staff, providers, and youth. OCP/NFYI are now recruiting and onboarding these youth, who are expected to start in February with a six-month commitment.
  - ❖ **Trainings** Training topics for this curriculum development include the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR), the Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) process, harm-reduction safety strategies, and youth engagement strategies. OCP will partner with NFYI, Los Angeles County's Office of the Ombudsperson for Youth in STRTPs (Ombudsperson's Office), the Alliance for Children's Rights, and DCFS to develop these resources/micro-learning, as well as to review current trainings and supports to translate them into digestible content for staff, providers, and youth. The workgroup is exploring best practices as to

when these resources should be shared and distributed, such as during monthly social-worker visits, other engagements of the youth/family, and the CFT.

- ❖ **Education Rights/Educational Rights Holders** The workgroup will also work with the director of the ECC to integrate Educational Rights Holders into the CFT and other placement planning/decision processes. The ECC director is working with the Alliance for Children’s Rights and its Education Youth Cohort, the Ombudsperson’s Office, and DCFS to provide more resources to youth and Educational Rights Holders on education rights, including the importance of integrating schools of origin into placement decision-making processes.
- **Youth Opioid Response Grant** See page 17 for more information on the implementation of the County’s Youth Opioid Response grant and other efforts to address substance use for system-involved youth.

## Cross-Agency Health Care Coordination

**BACKGROUND** OCP has convened DHS, DPH, DMH, and DCFS to address systemic health issues pertaining to youth in foster care. Executive department leads meet monthly to discuss urgent issues as they arise, as well as to focus on a few issue areas consistently.

### Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services (LANES)

**BACKGROUND** OCP continues working with the LANES health information exchange system, DPH, County Counsel, DCFS, and the CEO to provide child-welfare teams with critical, timely health information from LANES to support health-care coordination and effective treatment for DCFS youth.

#### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Improved Utilization** Worked with DPH to improve the utilization of LANES through periodic updates and trainings. LANES usage continues to climb; the most recent data finds 60% of child-welfare public health nurses (CWPHNs) using LANES to support 967 child-welfare clients during the month of October 2023.
- **Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)** Coordinated communications between LANES and DPH, as well as a training, regarding LANES’ new Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) platform that substantially enhances the utility of LANES. Began discussions to explore using LANES to track chronic conditions for the child-welfare population and for subsets of the cohort.
- **Additional Opportunities** Worked with LANES, DCFS’s Bureau of Information Services, and DPH’s Children’s Medical Services to explore additional opportunities to use LANES to support the child-welfare population, including the possibility of granting access to social workers for care coordination purposes, and creating potential linkages between LANES and other outside systems currently being explored in the County

## Health and Education Data in Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

**BACKGROUND** DCFS's Health and Education Passport (HEP) is designed to meet the state's requirements for providing health and education information for youth in foster care to their out-of-home caregivers and resource families. The HEP must be attached to all DCFS court reports and must be updated whenever new significant health and/or education information has been entered into DCFS's current case-management system, CWS/CMS. OCP is working with DCFS, DPH, and others to enhance the HEP for foster-youth health care coordination needs.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **CWS-CARES** In response to input from the OCP-led HEP Workgroup, the state CWS-CARES (the as-yet-unreleased new state child-welfare case-management system) implementation team has added a review and re-design of the HEP to its planning agenda for version 1 of the new system, and will use the workgroup's input as part of that process. In addition, the workgroup supported the state in developing its electronic document repository to ensure that it can replace the paper 'purple folder' currently in use (per workgroup request).
- **In Testing: CWPHN Consultation Portal** OCP led a collaboration between DCFS and DPH in the design of a new electronic CWPHN consultation portal. The collaborative provided concrete input to language, functions, and workflows that will improve teaming between children's social workers (CSWs) and CWPHNs using this new system. The CWPHNs will also provide input during the testing phase of the new portal, which should occur in the next quarter.

## Addressing Psychotropic Medication Use in Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice

**BACKGROUND** The Psychotropic Medication Workgroup continues to meet monthly and completed its updating of psychotropic medication protocols in December 2023. These updated protocols were submitted to the presiding judge of the juvenile court for approval in December 2023; the group is awaiting a response from the court.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- Quarterly updates of psychotropic medication data were received from DCFS and Probation.
  - ❖ **DCFS** data as of January 10, 2024, indicate that:
    - 1,225 children are being administered psychotropic medications (down from 1,287 last quarter), which is 9.0% of Los Angeles County foster children
    - 266 children are being administered anti-psychotic medications (up from 254 last quarter), which is 21.7% of foster children on medications
    - 608 children are being administered two or more medications (down from 630 last quarter), which is 49.6% of foster children on medications
  - ❖ **Probation** data as of December 31, 2023, indicate that:
    - 9 youth who are suitably placed are being administered psychotropic medications (down from 17 last quarter), which is 6.3% of those in suitable placement
    - No youth in suitable placement is being administered an anti-psychotic medication

- 1 youth in suitable placement is being administered more than one medication
  - 110 youth in juvenile hall are being administered psychotropic medications (down from 121 youth last quarter), which is 40.6% of those in juvenile hall, with 45 on more than one medication and 15 on anti-psychotic medication
  - 58 youth in probation camps are being administered psychotropic medications (down from 67 youth last quarter), which is 55.2% of all those in camps, with 15 on more than one medication and 4 on anti-psychotic medication
  - 40 youth placed at Dorothy Kirby Center are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 66.7% of those at the Center, with 14 on more than one medication and 7 on anti-psychotic medication
  - 28 youth in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 38.8% of those at SYTFs, with 7 on more than one medication and 3 on anti-psychotic medication
- **YEW** The Psychotropic Medication Youth Engagement Worksheet (YEW) continues to be administered in both systems at a rate similar to those noted in previous progress reports.

## Addressing Substance Use and Its Impact on Children and Families

**BACKGROUND** OCP continues partnering with DCFS, DPH, DMH, DHS, Probation, the juvenile court, and a broad group of stakeholders to address the impact of substance use/substance-use disorders (SUDs) on children, youth, and families at risk of involvement or already involved in the child welfare system.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Launched: Plans of Safe Care (POSC) Pilot Planning** In the last quarter, OCP launched POSC pilot planning with St. Francis Medical Center and added Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital as another POSC pilot site.
  - ❖ **Training Developed** OCP worked with the MSI team to develop a POSC module for health care providers as part of MSI's updated mandated-reporter training curriculum.
  - ❖ **Web Resources** OCP is partnering with MSI to create a page on MSI's soon-to-be-launched website with information and resources on POSC requirements and Los Angeles County's POSC implementation efforts.
  - ❖ **Listening Sessions** Health Management Associates (HMA), OCP's technical-assistance provider for the POSC pilots, worked with DPH's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Bureau's Pregnant and Parenting Women's Network to conduct listening sessions with people with lived expertise in the POSC process, get feedback on POSC materials, and hear what supports and services worked best to meet their needs. OCP will be incorporating feedback from the listening sessions in its POSC implementation efforts.
  - ❖ **Grant Application Submitted** Finally, OCP led efforts with a multiagency collaborative to apply for the [Road to Resilience](#) grant from the California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention, which can fund onsite navigators at hospitals to

expand the capacity of the POSC pilots. The grant was submitted at the end of January and the award announcement is anticipated in February/March 2024.

- **Youth SUD/Drug Overdose Crisis** The OCP is leading project coordination for the Youth Opioid Response (YOR) Grant launched July 2023, which is intended to connect youth to appropriate substance-use and harm-reduction services, enhance the availability of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), and incorporate youth voice into these efforts.
  - ❖ **Program Outcomes**
    - Created accessible harm-reduction training videos/materials and distributed them across youth-serving departments
    - Provided harm-reduction training to 82 probation staff and 60 youth; began harm-reduction training with DCFS and STRTP staff and resource families
    - Working with LAUSD on a youth-led campaign and interventions
    - 135 new youth are receiving MAT services for opioid use; 246 new youth are receiving MAT services for stimulant and cocaine use
    - 80 new youth are receiving substance-use case-management services
    - 115 new youth are receiving outpatient treatment/counseling services
    - Trained 280 clinicians on MAT
    - Extended MAT help line to offer 24-hour coverage
    - 1,012 people were reached through community and prevention education events
    - Provided Naloxone to DCFS regional offices for distribution; partnered with DCFS to revise STRTP contracts to require Naloxone training and supplies onsite; DCFS issued a new FYI to their staff regarding Naloxone practices
    - Developing a prevention education program with LACOE to pilot in two STRTPs
  - ❖ **Updated: State Resources** Provided input to update state resources related to MAT provider certification
  - ❖ **SME Review** Worked with DCFS to set up and prepare for a subject-matter expert (SME) review of DCFS substance-use disorder (SUD) policies and related forms; the first meeting of this SME team will occur in February 2024
  - ❖ **Board Response** Worked with DCFS and SAPC to respond to the October 2023 Board of Supervisors' [Reaching the 95%](#) motion
  - ❖ **SUD Services for Probation Youth** Scheduled to participate in interviews with SUD service providers, Probation staff, and youth to get input into SUD service needs at the Probation halls and camps
  - ❖ **Pilot in Development: SUD Screenings at Hubs** Began work on a pilot to implement SUD screenings at the Medical Hubs; the first Hub to participate will be Harbor-UCLA



***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.***

## Strengthening Our System of Care

**BACKGROUND** Through Assembly Bill 2083 (Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018), California requires each county to develop and implement an MOU outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various local entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma. While the legislation initially focused on the child-welfare system, counties can expand the focus of their System of Care (SOC) to ensure that all public programs for children, youth, and families provide services in an integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive, and evidence-based/best-practice manner.

**PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER** The OCP is bringing on Richard Knecht, a consultant with expertise on systems of care and integrated whole-child models of care for children and families, to provide strategic planning and coaching support for the SOC Interagency Leadership Team (ILT). The consultant's scope of work for 2024 will include working with the ILT on identifying shared vision and priorities; developing recommendations for strengthening SOC administration, meeting structures, and the MOU; and technical assistance to SOC departments on the Interagency Placement Committee process, which will enhance how the departments serve their shared clients, particularly young people with complex unmet needs. The County's SOC ILT is also participating in a state-sponsored regional convening on AB 2083 on February 15.

## Medi-Cal Coordination

**BACKGROUND** California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) offers major changes, and thus new opportunities, for funding a continuum of services—community health workers, doulas, behavioral health, enhanced care management, and more—to benefit children and families at risk of involvement or already involved with the child-welfare system. Many departments and stakeholders are exploring how these changes will affect their populations and how their agencies might best access these funds for prevention and care-coordination efforts. The County is working to build the expertise and partnerships necessary to create programs that make the best use of the CalAIM benefits available for youth in foster care starting in July 2023.

### PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

- **Technical Assistance** On November 7, 2023, the Board passed a [motion](#) directing OCP to enter into a contract with Health Management Associates (HMA) to provide technical assistance to OCP, DCFS, other County departments, and managed care plans (MCP) on the implementation of CalAIM's enhanced care management (ECM) benefits for the child-welfare population.

The OCP is working with HMA to finalize and execute the contract. Per the motion, OCP's scope of work with HMA will include:

- Identification and assessment of the ECM-eligible child-welfare population, including recommendations for transitioning to managed-care Medi-Cal to improve access
- Facilitation of a joint MCP/County collaborative on ECM for child welfare
- Creation of a workplan for the launch and ongoing implementation of ECM for child welfare
- Technical assistance to DCFS, MCPs, and ECM-contracted providers on ECM implementation

## **Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD) Community Advisory Task Force**

**BACKGROUND** DCFS, in partnership with community-based organizations, faith partners, advocates, those with lived expertise, Casey Family Programs, OCP, the Children’s Law Center, other County departments, the juvenile court, philanthropy, and academia, convenes key stakeholders from sectors across Los Angeles County monthly to implement strategies to eliminate racial disproportionality and disparities in the child-welfare system. ERDD focuses on key outcomes to measure progress, with all data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, to ensure that Black/African-American children and families achieve equitable results.

### **PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER**

- **Equity Summit** On December 6, 2023, ERDD held its Eighth Annual Community Equity Summit. The goal of these summits is to provide a safe space for honest dialogue and creating action plans that apply lessons learned and enhance systems change. This summit highlighted community care for those providing services to Black/African-American families to transform services and improve outcomes. Data shared at the summit showed a reduction of African-American children entering care since 2018 from 12.6 per 1,000 to 8.5 per 1,000 in 2022. System partners credit the work done through the ERDD Community Advisory Board’s consultive framework, ERDD Roundtables, and data-driven decision making. Participants engaged in a racial wealth gap activity to illustrate ongoing equity gaps embedded in national policy and practices.
- **Investigation Survey** On November 16, 2023, OCP and Casey Family Programs facilitated a focus group with youth and parents with lived expertise to elicit feedback and recommendations on an investigation survey whose purpose is to collect data from lived experts to improve DCFS practice around conducting investigations and follow-up. The ERDD prevention subgroup is working with the ERDD steering committee to ensure DCFS commitment to utilizing the tool, and will create a team of lived experts, DCFS, and CBOs to discuss how to disseminate the survey.



## Elevating and Incorporating Lived Expertise

**BACKGROUND** OCP's [Strategic Plan](#), as well as a number of County priorities and initiatives, emphasize the need for youth and families to have an active voice in making key decisions about their own lives. Working with County departments, community-based organizations and advocates, and other community stakeholders, OCP is implementing strategies to ensure that youth and families involved in, or at risk of involvement with the child-welfare system play a central role in the development of case plans, programs, supports, and child-welfare and child/family wellbeing policy decisions.

**PROGRESS OVER THE PAST QUARTER** OCP, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, has contracted with Castillo Consulting Partners (CCP) to develop and support a cohort of community experts and lived experts to provide their expertise, guidance, and feedback in our prevention and youth-focused initiatives. CCP will provide learning and development support for this cohort, as well as compensation to the community/lived experts for their work. We anticipate that this cohort of community/lived experts will be engaged in DCFS' Prevention Advisory Committee, MSI-related workgroups, and a number of OCP projects focused on youth engagement/youth voice and improving supports for system-involved youth. CCP will be onboarding the cohort of 15 community/lived experts in February 2024.

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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.