



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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May 31, 2024

To: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair
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From: Brandon T. Nichols
Director

REQUIRED ONE-TIME "SPECIAL REPORT," PURSUANT TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2023 JUDGMENT APPROVING SETTLEMENT IN THE KATIE A. LAWSUIT, REGARDING ACTUAL REASONS FOR PLACEMENT CHANGES

On November 29, 2023, the United States District Court for the Central District of California entered a judgment approving the parties' settlement agreement and ending the Katie A. lawsuit; however, the judgment requires ongoing publishing of information from the County of Los Angeles for a period of 18 months.

This one-time "Special Report" examines a random sample of 60 children and youth who experienced placement changes over a six month period attributable to the categories "Other," "Foster Home/Agency Request," "Runaways," "Higher Level of Care Requested," "Incarcerated," and "Committed to a State Hospital" on the DCFS "TA 280" Placement Change report. This Special Report is *only* to determine the extent to which the child's behavior was in fact the underlying cause of the placement change.

The circumstances surrounding each of the placement changes were reviewed carefully to identify which placement changes were attributed to the child's behavior versus the result of issues outside the child's behavior such as a court ordered change of plan to move to a relative, or a licensing issue in the home. Of the 60 children and youth included on the Special Report during the six-month period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, 15 (25%) of them experienced a placement change where the underlying cause was determined to be the child's behavior.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Each Supervisor
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The table below shows a breakdown of the 60 placement changes by the categories on the TA 280 report, and also shows how many from each of those categories experienced a placement change where the underlying cause was determined to be the child's behavior.

TA280 Placement Change Reason	(A) No. of Children/Youth	(B) Child's Behavior*
"Foster Home/Agency Request"	9	4
"Incarcerated"	1	1
"Other"	50	10
"Runaways"	0	0
"Higher Level of Care Requested"	0	0
"Committed to a State Hospital"	0	0
Total	60	15

*Number of children/youth from column "(A)" where the underlying reason for the placement change was the child's behavior.

This report will be publicly available and can be accessed on the Los Angeles County Board Correspondence website: (<https://lacounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/board-correspondence/>). The report will also be posted on the DCFS and DMH public websites.

If you have any questions, you may contact me, or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, DCFS Board Liaison, at (213) 454-6652.

BTN:JF:DI:jn

c: Department of Mental Health
Department of Probation
Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families
Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission