

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT
DIRECTIVE

No.	854
Issued:	03/05/02
Post Until:	04/05/02

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE EXPANSION AND
REFERRAL PROCESS**

BACKGROUND

Following the passage of the Children's Mental Health Services Act, (Sept. 1992), Los Angeles County was awarded funding for System of Care Development. The intent of the legislation was to demonstrate that when public agencies collaborate to develop community alternatives, they could maintain children in the community; avoid substantial placement cost; and improve the functioning of children in their families.

The Department of Mental Health established Children's System of Care Collaborative Committees in the Antelope Valley and in East Los Angeles in 1993. Additionally, committees were formed in the Long Beach and Compton areas in 1996. The year 2001 has seen the expansion of Children's System of Care to all Service Areas of the county.

Each collaborative is comprised of representatives from the Department of Mental Health, Children and Family Services, Probation, the local Mental Health provider, parent/family advocate, and the local School Districts. The Probation Department is represented on all established collaborative committees. In early 2001, the Central Placement Unit expanded to twelve Children's System of Care DPO II positions and covers all of the Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas.

GOALS

The goals include: reduce recidivism in the juvenile justice system, the improvement of school attendance and performance and the reduction of residential and group home placement.

The purpose of the committee is to review the cases referred by the participating agency, allow family participation in the process, assess the needs and find resources in the System to address those needs.

This program can be utilized to re-integrate suitable placement and camp minors, who meet the criteria, back into the community.

CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL

The Program Referring Criteria is as follows:

- ☐ Children must be residents of L.A. County living within the targeted Service areas.
- ☐ Children must have serious emotional problems and be at risk of out of home placement.
- ☐ Children should have significant need for higher levels of care within the System; lower levels of care should have been attempted and failed.
- ☐ Children must be experiencing significant impairment in self care, at school, home and/or in the community.

MANUAL HOLDERS: CROSS-REFERENCE YOUR MANUALS TO THIS DIRECTIVE WHERE APPROPRIATE

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- ☐ Children/families must be willing to participate in the program
- ☐ Children and their families must have open cases with the Mental Health Department and one of the following agencies:
 - Department of Children and Family Services
 - Probation Department
 - Local School Districts
- ☐ Children and their families must be screened and accepted by the Inter-agency Screening Committee.

REFERRAL PROCESS

1. Contact the DPO II assigned to the area of the minor's residence (see below)
2. Request and fill out the information packet regarding the family's history and needs. (The Probation Liaison will provide assistance)
3. Once scheduled, attend the Children's System of Care (CSOC) screening meeting to provide needed information to the committee

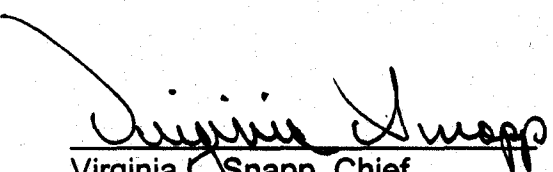
CONTACT INFORMATION

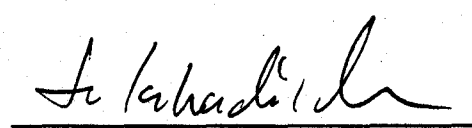
Central Placement
System of Care SDPO
(323) 226-8620

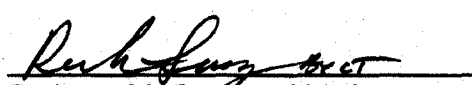
Regions / Collaborative Teams:

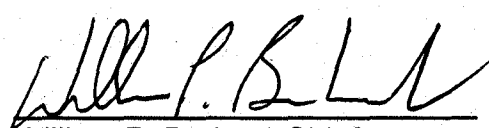
Antelope Valley
San Fernando Valley/Santa Clarita
Pasadena
Pomona/San Gabriel
Metro (Downtown L.A.)
West Los Angeles
North/South -East L.A. through Whittier

South Central
Willowbrook
Crenshaw/University
Long Beach
San Pedro/Wilmington
Inglewood/Hawthorne
Compton/Lynwood


Virginia L. Snapp, Chief
Juvenile Field Services Bureau


Jitahadi Imara, Chief
Juvenile Special Services Bureau


Richard M. Saenz, Chief
Residential Treatment Services Bureau


William P. Burkert, Chief
Detention Services Bureau