



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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February 21, 2017

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair  
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From: Judge Michael Nash (Ret.)   
Executive Director, Office of Child Protection

## PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Board of Supervisors established the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (Center) within the Office of Child Protection (OCP)<sup>1</sup> on October 6, 2015, following a recommendation made by the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. On April 1, 2016, Kate Anderson commenced her work as the Center's Director.

The Center submitted an update on its progress to the Board on July 1, 2016. Attached is a follow-up on its progress to date. Some highlights of the update are the Center's:

- Having secured \$50,000 in philanthropic funding to expand a County-commissioned scan of LGBTQ youth services in Los Angeles County, enabling a fuller understanding of services that are available to—or lacking for—LGBTQ youth
- Having secured \$100,000 in philanthropic funding for an evaluation of the Department of Children and Family Services' pilot of a consistent and replicable system of finding and engaging family members when a child is taken into the child welfare system
- Having secured \$30,000 in philanthropic funding to partner with the faith-based community in South Los Angeles to put on a "one-day, one-stop shop" for individuals interested in becoming DCFS resource families

We intend to submit quarterly reports on the Center's work in future to keep you apprised of its accomplishments.

<sup>1</sup> October 6, 2015 Motion by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Sheila Kuehl

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 893-1152 or via e-mail at [mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov), or contact Kate Anderson directly at (213) 893-2538 or via email at [kkanderson@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:kkanderson@ocp.lacounty.gov).

MN:CDM:KKA:eih

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
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First 5 LA  
Southern California Grantmakers

## Director's Report Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships February 2017

### Center Staffing

- The Center hired an Associate Director, Elizabeth Cohen, who began on December 1, 2016.
- Through Southern California Grantmakers, the Center has continued to engage Gita Cugley Murthy as a consultant to assist in myriad efforts. Additional consultants are retained for specific areas of focus or joint initiatives.

### Joint Initiatives

The Center has pursued over a dozen joint initiatives between the public and private sectors that are in various stages of implementation. We have focused on the areas of our shared agenda—prevention, recruiting and retaining resource families, and supporting transition-age youth—and have also engaged in initiatives spanning the overlap of those areas.

The Center has successfully secured funding for three joint initiatives, highlighted below.

- First, the Center brought together funders—a diverse group whose members do not typically invest in the child welfare arena—and secured \$50,000 in funding to **expand a County-commissioned scan of LGBTQ youth services** in Los Angeles County. With this increased scope, the scan provides an unprecedented opportunity to gain a fuller understanding of services that are available to—or lacking for—LGBTQ youth. The report is scheduled to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2017, after which the Center will reconvene its funders so that the private and public sectors can work together to address any disparities or other issues identified by the scan.

We are grateful to the David Bohnett Foundation, the California Community Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation, the City of West Hollywood, and The Palette Fund for their generous investment.

- Second, we recently secured \$100,000 in funding for an **evaluation of the Department of Children and Family Services' family-finding pilot**. Through a motion passed on May 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors called on DCFS to work with the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to build a robust and consistent system of finding and engaging family members when a child is taken into the child welfare system. DCFS and the OCP together designed a pilot for two DCFS offices (Santa Fe Springs and Glendora), and approached the Center seeking a philanthropic partner to fund an outside evaluator and technical assistance for the pilot. The Center engaged potential partners, secured the funding, and helped to select an outside entity to perform the work: Child Trends, a national expert on family finding. We are grateful to The Ahmanson Foundation for funding this project.

- Third, we secured \$30,000 in funding to partner with the faith-based community in South Los Angeles to put on a **“one-day, one-stop shop” for individuals interested in becoming resource families** that, it is hoped, can serve as a model for future efforts elsewhere in Los Angeles County. We are grateful to the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation for their investment in this project.

Progress to date on the Center's remaining initiatives is detailed in the rest of this section.

### **Prevention Efforts**

- Working closely with the Department of Public Health on developing a response to the recent Board motion calling for a Countywide **home visitation plan**. The Center continues to reach out to both the business and philanthropic communities to engage them in these efforts.
- Working with Casey Family Programs on a landscape analysis of the County's **Prevention and Aftercare Networks'** reach in specific high-need areas of Los Angeles County. When Casey funded the scan, the Center helped ensure that it aligned with and supported the work of the OCP's Prevention Workgroup. The scan is underway and set to be released within the next few months.
- Co-hosted a tour of funders interested in supporting the County's **Parks After Dark** program and are now developing partnerships between funders and the County to enhance the program. We are also exploring potential regional approaches with other jurisdictions.

### **Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families**

- Hosted a convening to connect foster family agencies and group homes to the **Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative**, a philanthropic resource that facilitates the exploration and pursuit of strategic restructuring opportunities for the nonprofit sector—a connection made as Continuum of Care Reform efforts are causing many providers to rethink their operations. The Center is also working with DCFS, the Department of Mental Health, and other County Departments to help providers use this resource as they strategize how best to operate in the future.
- Exploring **innovative models** for recruiting and retaining resource families by developing a framework of philanthropic support and deep County involvement that involves a learning collaborative and evaluations of existing models. We are grateful to the Louis Borick Foundation for its seed funding of this project.
- Working with DCFS, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the W.M. Keck Foundation, and First5LA to support a pilot within The Child Care Resource Center to designate **trauma-informed emergency child care spaces for foster parents**
- Exploring training and technical assistance for DCFS and its contractors working with **relative caregivers** for children detained out of their homes

### **Support of Transition-Age Youth (TAY)**

- Supported a federal grant application by the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority for a **coordinated entry system for youth** by soliciting multiple private sector letters of support, and by helping to revise and strengthen the application itself
- Partnering with the Home for Good Funders Collaborative, which convenes private and public sector funders to find **solutions to homelessness**, to bring this support to youth and families

### **Cross-Area Initiatives**

- Secured the commitment of multiple County Departments to participate in the development, dissemination, and use of a philanthropically supported report from Measure of America (a program of the Social Science Research Council) titled *Portrait of Los Angeles*. This data will support future policy decisions enabling the County to target services to families who are most in need. The Center also supported the OCP in drafting a grant proposal to the County's Productivity and Investment Fund to support a consultant to lead Measure of America's local advisory board.
- Supporting the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Foundation's "**Hack Foster Care LA**" by helping to facilitate meetings with County personnel and connect other private and public sector entities to the event

### **Center Convenings and Meetings**

In addition to building joint initiatives, the Center also plays a connecting and convening role, often helping to link representatives of one sector to initiatives already underway in another sector. As one example, the Center helped connect DCFS representatives to a private sector-funded convening in Austin, Texas, around Los Angeles County's participation (along with Austin and Cleveland) in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Family & Youth Services Bureau's *100-Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness* by housing 100 youth in 100 days. We continue to support this and other "silo-busting" gatherings of County and private sector representatives, both on an ad-hoc basis and in the formal convenings described below.

- The **Child Welfare Funders Collaborative**, convened in conjunction with Southern California Grantmakers, brings together representatives from the County and philanthropy around issues related to child welfare. Each meeting focuses on a different topic, creating both a learning environment and a space for cross-sector discussion and problem-solving. Under the Center's leadership, the Collaborative met on July 14 and October 13 of last year, and, most recently, on February 15, 2017.
- Again in conjunction with Southern California Grantmakers, the **Center's funders** (private and public) convened at a briefing hosted by the Annenberg Foundation on December 1, 2016. Representatives from the County Departments and foundations that fund the Center—along with managers from the Chief Executive Office—discussed the Center's progress to date and strategized about next steps. The Center will reconvene these funders again by early June and plans twice-yearly gatherings in the future.