



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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August 28, 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) 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 updates on its progress to the Board on July 1, 2016, and on February 21 and May 31, 2017. Attached is a follow-up on its progress since this last date. Some highlights of the update are the Center's:

- Obtaining a grant of \$100,000 from the Reissa Foundation for a consultant to formally record the policies, practices, and procedures of the teen clinic located within the County's LAC+USC Medical Hub, in preparation for establishing similar teen programs, welcoming to LGBTQ youth, throughout the Hubs
- Arranging in-person conversations between Los Angeles County leaders and the early-childhood staff of the Administration for Children and Families' Region IX office regarding potential support for innovative public-private partnerships
- Helping to convene faith-based partners and the Department of Children and Family Services to build a foster-care ministry focused on foster family recruitment and support in South Los Angeles—a result of June 3's one-day *Fostering Home* convening to recruit resource families in that area

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

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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 your staff may contact Kate Anderson at (213) 893-2538 or via email at [kkanderson@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:kkanderson@ocp.lacounty.gov).

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

The Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships is pleased to present this update on our work since our May 2017 report. We are grateful for the continued support of our public and private partners; our home in the County, the Office of Child Protection (OCP); and our private-sector home and fiscal sponsor, Southern California Grantmakers.<sup>1</sup> We are also grateful to the many County departments and private sector partners that have joined us in the joint initiatives described below. We are proud of the work we have done together.

Since our last quarterly report, we have formalized four new joint initiatives, successfully held (in partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services) the first-ever Fostering Home recruitment event for potential resource families, and continued to nurture and develop a number of other joint initiatives in our three priority areas: prevention, the recruitment and retention of relative caregivers and non-related resource families, and supporting our transition-age youth.

### **Joint Initiatives Formalized Since Our Last Report**

- **Teen Clinic Replication** The County Medical Hub system is designed to provide coordinated health care for all children under the care of DCFS, but only one Hub—LAC+USC, operated by Violence Intervention Program (VIP)—has a clinic devoted to teens. This clinic is at the forefront of best practices in welcoming care, especially for LGBTQ youth; staff tailor practices to suit the needs of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Teens in our system travel from around the county to access care at this Hub.

Given its success, the County would like to replicate the LAC+USC model in other County Hubs, and the first step in this replication is documenting what the teen clinic does right. The Reissa Foundation has partnered in this effort, investing \$100,000 to hire a program manager charged with formally recording the clinic's current policies, practices, and procedures. Once best practices are documented, the program manager will start working—initially with one additional Hub—to establish teen programs that are equally welcoming to LGBTQ youth at each Medical Hub.

- **Youth Housing Pilots** The Home for Good Funders Collaborative, working in partnership with the Center, funded two proposals supporting housing solutions for youth. One will fund Village Family Services, the SPA 2 Youth Coordinated-Entry Services (Youth CES) lead, to provide housing navigation, supportive services, and flexible dollars to AB 12 youth who are approved for supervised independent living placements. The second funds Hathaway-Sycamores, the SPA 3 Youth CES lead, to provide supportive services and housing navigation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Center's work would not be possible without the generous support of our private sector funders, which provide half the funding for the Center: The Ahmanson Foundation; Annenberg Foundation; Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation/Pritzker Foster Care Initiative; The Ballmer Group; Blue Shield of California Foundation; California Community Foundation; The California Endowment; Community Partners; David Bohnett Foundation; First5 LA; Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; The James Irvine Foundation; Liberty Hill Foundation; The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation; and Weingart Foundation

These two grants represent the first time that the Home for Good Funders Collaborative has supported programs for youth, and also embody a new way of doing business. Not only are the Center, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the Collaborative working closely with one another on these projects, we are co-convening and leading this work together.

- **Relative Caregiver Support Trainings** As Continuum of Care Reform rolls out in the County, we are committed to improving our support of relative caregivers for children detained out of their homes. At DCFS's request, a national expert, A Second Chance, recently offered professional development to community-based organizations and DCFS staff over two days of trainings across the county. Its objective was to begin a conversation about better supporting and valuing kinship care in Los Angeles County. The curriculum used was Kin2You™—A Values Training for Kinship Care Professionals, which encourages a culture of relying more heavily on kinship care to guide placement decisions. Over the two days, a total of 433 participants were trained. DCFS and the Center continue to engage in discussions about how best to utilize A Second Chance's expertise in valuing and supporting kinship care.
- **SPA 6 Prevention Pilot** Many of the families receiving public assistance through the Department of Public Social Services would be better able to keep their families together if they could access home-visiting services. DPSS—together with First 5 LA, the OCP, the Children's Data Network, and SHIELDS for Families, Inc.—have launched a pilot in South Los Angeles to provide stronger connections for DPSS clients to SHIELDS' community-based prevention programs, which include evidence-based home-visiting services. This pilot is a model for other regions and other agencies; however, to be implemented properly and then replicated, it first must be documented. The Reissa Foundation provided support to document key components and lessons learned to adapt and replicate the pilot in other SPAs and with other County departments. This work will be shared widely with the OCP's prevention partners within the county and potentially with partners across the state seeking to learn from our work.
- **One-Day Convening to Recruit Resource Families in South Los Angeles** The Center was pleased to partner with DCFS, the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative, and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to produce *Fostering Home*, a first-of-its-kind one-day/one-stop shop event for prospective resource families in South Los Angeles on June 3, 2017. This event offered a new vision for recruitment—focused on community, support, and appreciation for those interested in becoming resource families—and brought together as many of the tools and resources as possible in one place on one day to help families in their journey to become resource families. It offered guests the opportunity to attend an orientation session, get medical screenings/tuberculosis tests, complete a Live Scan, receive paperwork assistance, visit the resource fair, sign up for CalFresh, and ask DCFS and foster family agencies questions about the approval process. Over 28 organizations, including four County departments, participated in the resource fair, showing just how much support exists in the community for resource parents and foster children. The event was a resounding success, with over 140 attendees and over 40 Resource Family Approval applications submitted. We are exploring the opportunity to hold additional similar events throughout the County.

## Updates on Initiatives in Progress

### Prevention Efforts

The OCP released *Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County* on June 30, 2017, and the Center has continued its efforts to connect this work to the private sector and the community. The Center has also continued to support the County's response to the Board's December 20, 2016, home-visiting motion.

- **Engaging the Private Sector to Support the Prevention Plan** In building on a strong foundation of community-based supports, in bringing forward the best thinking and commitments of County departments, and in working closely with First 5 LA to leverage that organization's experience and resources, the OCP's prevention plan presents a roadmap for us to truly build a system of care and supports to strengthen vulnerable families at risk of entering the child welfare system. This plan can achieve its full potential only if the private sector is a true partner in helping to realize it. Throughout the plan's development, the Center met with and solicited feedback and input from the private sector. Upon its release, the Center has circulated the plan to the Los Angeles County Preschool Advocacy Initiative (housed at the California Community Foundation), to the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, to staff at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, to staff at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and to each of the Center's philanthropic funders. We will continue to engage and involve each of these partners to implement *Paving the Road* so we may realize this County's potential to support our vulnerable families and children.
- **Partnering with the Administration for Children and Families Regional Office** The early-childhood staff of the Administration for Children and Families—a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—has been partnering with communities across the country to support public-private innovations. Region IX staff (the region encompassing Los Angeles County) is interested in our prevention work and in its potential for similar innovations. The Center has arranged for in-person initial conversations early this fall with the Interim Region IX Director, innovation specialists, and County leaders involved in prevention to discuss potential partnerships.
- **Home Visiting Ad-Hoc Funders' Workgroup** As the County prepares its plan in response to the December 20, 2016, home-visiting Board motion, the Center has been working with a small group of foundation representatives on the Home Visiting Ad-Hoc Funders' Workgroup, briefing them on developments in the County's response and soliciting ideas and feedback. The County planning group and the ad-hoc funders are now ready to sit down together to flesh out some of the ideas that have been generated.
- **Domestic Violence Prevention and Home Visiting** Home-visiting programs have been shown to prevent domestic violence by working with families to address issues before violence manifests. These programs are best able to do this when the visitors themselves are trained and then supported through coaching and strong connections to services for the families. The Center partnered with DCFS and the Los Angeles County Home Visitation Consortium to develop a proposal to bring more intentional training and support first to County-funded and then to other home-visiting programs. We were invited to submit this proposal as part of a final round of potential grantees for a private foundation and will be

notified in early fall if we were successful. Regardless of the outcome of this particular submission, the Center and the County intend to continue pursuing the opportunities this intersection presents.

- **Scans of the Prevention and Early Childhood Landscapes** The Partnership for Early Childhood Investment has completed its scan of early childhood systems in Los Angeles County. The Center was part of a number of small workgroup meetings convened to help shape the scan, and is invited to present at a Partnership meeting about the OCP's prevention plan that the scan supports. The Casey-funded prevention scan has also been completed and is being used by the OCP in its implementation work.
- **Connecting the Department of Mental Health's Prevention and Early Intervention Funding to the OCP's Prevention Efforts** The Center continues to work with the Department of Mental Health to identify private sector support for bringing on a team of consultants to enhance the connections between DMH's Prevention and Early Intervention funding and the OCP's prevention efforts.
- **Portrait of Los Angeles** The *Portrait of Los Angeles* report, which will tell a story of community-level well-being through the lens of the Human Development Index (a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and per-capita income indicators), is in the process of being developed. With support from the Center to obtain funding from the County's Productivity and Investment Fund, the OCP has hired Cheryl Wold as the *Portrait's* on-the-ground consultant. She will lead an advisory board that will help shape the *Portrait of Los Angeles* report and its agenda for action, at the same time aligning and integrating related data efforts into this work.

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

Recruiting and retaining resource families continues to be a high priority for all of the Center's partners. Multiple high-level initiatives are underway to increase and support relative caregivers, as well as to bring new loving families into this system.

- **South Los Angeles Foster-Care Ministry** An unexpected and welcome outcome of the June 3 *Fostering Home* event was the response of the faith community in South Los Angeles, which was deeply moved by the event. Leaders of that community approached organizers even before the day ended to say that they wanted the momentum to continue, having already spoken with other leaders from five large predominately African-American churches in the area. All are committed to continuing these efforts and want to form a coalition focused on foster family recruitment and support. Center staff met with these leaders to explore a potential commitment, and helped reconvene the group for further discussions with DCFS. Together, the Center, the coalition leaders, and DCFS are in the early stages of exploring the idea of public-private partnerships to build a foster-care ministry in South Los Angeles.
- **Evaluation of the Family-Finding Pilot** The evaluation of the family-finding pilot, funded by The Ahmanson Foundation, is underway. The Child Trends team has participated on the implementation calls and recently completed a two-day site visit to the two DCFS offices where the pilot is taking place. Its work is expected to continue into the new year, with a final report to be released in 2018.

- **Collective-Impact Model for Recruitment and Retention** Using a collective-impact model, a group of diverse stakeholders convened in partnership with the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to tackle obstacles to the effective recruitment and retention of resource families. The group requested a landscape analysis—focusing on resources for foster children from birth to age five funded by First 5 LA—to ground its work; results are expected in early fall.
- **Undocumented Homeless Youth Legal Connections** Undocumented homeless youth in fear of deportation can now obtain legal support and advice through the youth coordinated entry system. Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and two private firms, Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP, and O'Melveny & Meyers, LLP, have committed to offering *pro bono* legal aid to these youth. KIND also conducted “Know Your Rights” community workshops and made them available via webinar to ensure that youth are informed and can have their questions answered. This initiative will continue for as long as the need exists.

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

- **Parks After Dark Pilot Partnership with the City of Los Angeles's Gang Reduction Youth Diversion Program** The Center was able to successfully help broker a partnership between Parks After Dark, the Department of Public Health, and the City of Los Angeles's Gang Reduction and Youth Diversion (GRYD) program to bring GRYD's evidence-based infrastructure to two County parks this summer. Both Jesse Owens and Ted Watkins parks have had exceptional experiences with the GRYD interventionists so far, and the Parks Department is very pleased with the partnership. The Center plans to bring funders together for a briefing this fall to discuss this work and the potential for expanded partnerships. In addition, the Center continues to explore regional approaches to supporting evening and summer programming throughout the Los Angeles area.
- **Youth Diversion Subcommittee** Programs to divert youth from entering the juvenile justice system have proved effective at keeping youth in the community and on track. Los Angeles County—through a January 10, 2017, Board motion—is working to build a stronger youth diversion system. The Center is connecting the private sector to these efforts, in partnership with the Liberty Hill Foundation and The California Endowment, by co-hosting a briefing on June 28, 2017, and developing joint initiatives to support the County's efforts.
- **Hack Foster Care LA** Potential initiatives from the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative's “Hack Foster Care LA” event continue to be developed with DCFS. The Center stands ready to support partnerships to advance initiatives coming from these efforts.

### **Cross-Area Initiatives: Trauma-Informed Los Angeles County**

The final report from the County's trauma-informed workgroup, “Trauma and Resiliency: A Systems Change Approach,” was released in June 2017. The Center will work with our partners to bring attention to the promising initiatives identified in this report to move this effort forward.

### **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. We continue to support these and other “silo-busting” gatherings of County and private-sector representatives, both on an ad-hoc basis and in the formal convenings described below.

**Child Welfare Funders Collaborative**

Convened in conjunction with Southern California Grantmakers, this Collaborative 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. At our meeting on June 29, 2017, we focused on housing issues related to transition-age youth. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 2.

**Home for Good Funders Collaborative Youth Subgroup**

In conjunction with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the Home for Good Funders Collaborative, the Center co-convenes a youth subgroup focused on solving youth homelessness and on bringing private and public sector funders together to tackle specific areas. Its next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2017; it plans to meet bi-monthly.

**Semi-Annual Funders' Breakfast Briefing**

In conjunction with Southern California Grantmakers, the Center's funders (private and public) come together bi-annually to discuss the Center's progress to date and strategize about future directions. We met on June 7, 2017, and plan to meet again in early December.