



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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October 31, 2018

To: Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Chair
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From: Judge Michael Nash (Ret.) 
Executive Director

PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

In the final report of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP), *The Road to Safety for Our Children*, 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 July 31, 2018.

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.*

Countywide Prevention Plan

- A “one year later” implementation update on the OCP’s plan, *Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County*, was submitted to the Board on September 10, 2018, as *Prevention Plan for LA County One Year Later OCP Update*.
- Partnering with First 5 LA, the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development to lead activities across the six action areas outlined in the plan

- ✧ Networking the Networks Working with First 5 LA, DPH, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), the Prevention and Aftercare networks (P&As), the Children's Data Network, and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development to identify strategies for enhancing connections and coordination across existing prevention networks
 - Completed an analysis of key findings from 79 respondents to a first-ever survey conducted to better understand the formal and informal community-based prevention networks that currently exist in Los Angeles County
 - Developed a set of recommendations for weaving together relevant prevention networks across the county to strengthen the support “web” available to families
 - Currently identifying existing convenings across each of the eight geographic Service Planning Areas (SPAs) that can serve as forums for vetting those recommendations with community stakeholders, and beginning the process of weaving together these prevention networks
- ✧ Prevention and Aftercare Network Capacity Working with the P&As to help reach families that could benefit from support as early as possible, and to expand the networks' capacity of families served
 - Most of the P&As have begun implementing activities outlined in the plans they developed for expanding their capacity for engaging and supporting families. The most commonly cited barrier to implementation is hiring the right staff for key positions made possible by the expansion funding, which requires a significant amount of effort. While the needs for training and technical assistance vary across the P&As, all of them stated that more training on healing- and resiliency-informed mental health services is needed because of many experiences faced by their program participants.
 - Partnering with DMH, DCFS, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), and the consulting firm Third Sector to create a performance-based contracting process for the next P&A solicitation process. Discussions have included defining overarching goals and outcomes for the P&As, collecting data that accurately reflects the experience of program participants, metrics, evaluation, continuous improvement, service incentives, and technical assistance.
- ✧ Home Visitation Working with DPH, First 5 LA, DMH, DCFS, the Probation Department, Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Children's Data Network, the Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP), the Los Angeles Best Babies Network, and the LA County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium (Consortium) on developing a plan for expanding home visitation services available to vulnerable families

- DMH and DPH finalized a Memorandum of Understanding to expand home visiting programs over the next two years; \$15.262M of new DMH funding (available through the Mental Health Services Act's Prevention and Intervention dollars, or MHSA-PEI) was transferred to DPH through the Supplemental Budget process for Fiscal Year 2018–19.
 - DPH released a solicitation to expand the Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers evidenced-based home visiting models across geographic areas that have historically lacked these types of supports. This program expansion is anticipated to begin countywide next month.
 - DPSS and DPH have partnered to submit an application to the state to access newly created California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) home visiting funds that DPSS and local community agencies successfully advocated be included in the Fiscal Year 2018–19 Governor's Budget. If awarded, DPSS and DPH would begin using these funds in January 2019 to outreach to and create pathways tailored to Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients, as well as to increase the volume of home visiting supports available to these families.
 - DMH and the Consortium have expanded their perinatal mental health training and referral process improvements through additional in-person trainings, webinar trainings, and meetings with DMH navigators.
 - The Consortium and DPH have begun developing Phase I of an electronic eligibility and referral system that will be utilized by First 5 LA-funded outreach specialists, Prevention and Aftercare network navigators, DHS teams, DPH nurses, home visiting agencies, and others providing referrals to home visitation providers.
- ✧ Early Care and Education Working with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, First 5 LA, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, DCFS, DPH, the Commission for Children and Families, DMH, the Child Care Planning Committee, the Alliance for Children's Rights, the Advancement Project, the Southern California Chapter of the California Association for the Education of Young Children, P&A networks, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and others to create a road map for improving access to early care and education programs
- Awarded a matching grant of \$75,000 from the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission (matched with \$75,000 from OCP) to conduct a first-ever comprehensive fiscal analysis of the Early Care and Education system in Los Angeles County
 - Hired the consultant team Jeanna Capito and Associates through a competitive solicitation process to complete this analysis, which started this month

- ✧ Measuring Prevention Working with First 5 LA, DMH, DCFS, the Children's Data Network, CEO, DPH, DHS, LACOE, and other data experts to develop a set of standardized measures of prevention to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention-plan implementation efforts
 - Convened a three-day workshop, facilitated in partnership with the Chief Information Office (CIO) and Tyler Technologies (formerly Socrata), to identify and map data streams for a set of objectives to measure County prevention efforts. The workshops included over 75 participants across 10 County departments, as well as key community partners.
 - Developed a draft road map that outlines a digital strategic plan for the County to measure prevention outcomes in the areas of health in pregnancy and early life, safe children, child well-being, strong families, strong communities, and cost savings/avoidance, as well as a program and dataset inventory related to these outcomes
 - Partnering with the CIO and other critical stakeholders to finalize this road map
- ✧ A Portrait of Los Angeles County Working with various entities—including the CEO, the City of Los Angeles, First 5 LA, DPH, DCFS, WDACS, Public Library, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Probation Department, DPSS, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Children's Data Network, LACOE, CSP, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, the Child Care Planning Committee, Healthy Design Workgroup Grants Committee, Equity Workgroup, Weingart Foundation, Southern California Grantmakers, and the Center for Financial Empowerment—to monitor the overall well-being of communities and to support efforts that implement the *Portrait's* recommendations
 - Strategic engagement and outreach activities have continued with groups and agencies that have a potential impact on all 10 of the priority investment areas identified in the report. The report has been disseminated to over 2,500 programs or organizations since its release in November 2017. Key activities include:
 - Secured agreements and began preparing the *Portrait* data for publication on the County's Open Data Portal
 - Participating on LACOE's Community Schools Initiative planning team that is using the *Portrait's* data and education indicators to identify target neighborhoods and consider the effective allocation of resources
 - Developed a matrix of the educational *Portrait* data that was shared with WDACS and DMH to help these departments align their resources earmarked for transition-age youth (TAY) in a manner that helps to

improve educational outcomes for TAY and prevents them from becoming disconnected

- Presented data to multiple DCFS contract providers to promote collaboration and networking across providers within each SPA, including Family Preservation, P&As, Partnership for Families, Adoption Promotion and Support Services, and Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment
- Co-presented the *Portrait's* data with Measure of America on September 14, 2018, at the Citi Community Development conference that brought public and private partners together to discuss strategies for improving economic and housing stability across Los Angeles communities

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

Implementation of Anthony A. Report Recommendations

- On August 10, 2018, the OCP, DCFS, Health Agency, DHS, and the Sheriff's Department filed a joint response to the Board's motion to review the case that included the death of 10-year-old Anthony Avalos. The report contained eight recommendations for systems improvements:
 1. Reevaluate DCFS's Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM) process
 2. Improve the skills of staff interviewing children
 3. Retrain social workers on the proper use of Strategic Decision Making® (SDM)
 4. Increase collaboration between DCFS and law enforcement
 5. Improve the Medical Hub system
 6. Improve the investigation skills of social workers at the front end and beyond
 7. Improve the capacity to assess needs and progress made throughout the span of the case
 8. Reduce social worker caseloads
- Efforts to address the eight recommendations adopted by the Board are underway, and will be specifically reported to the Board in a follow-up memo by November 14, 2018. The OCP's actions in implementing these recommendations include:
 - ✧ Worked with DCFS, the Juvenile Court, Children's Law Center (CLC), Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL), and County Counsel to examine the use of VFMs and policy and practice issues that should be addressed (Recommendation 1). Areas of discussion include:
 - Selective eligibility for VFMs
 - Enhanced monitoring, engagement, and contact requirements (particularly when a child is under age five)
 - Prioritization of cases
 - Oversight and accountability of the process

- The quality of the services provided to the family
 - Ongoing assessment of the case progress
 - Use of safety and risk assessment tools
 - Requirements for closing a VFM
- ✧ Data on VFM cases over the last two years, as well as input and current practice information from DCFS regional staff have also been reviewed. Recommendations addressing these areas are being developed and shared with DCFS for consideration of changes to their policy and practice.
- ✧ Worked with DPH, DMH, and DCFS to outstation substance-abuse counselors in DCFS regional offices to provide on-site support and “warm hand-off” connections to substance-abuse supports for those parents or youth who need them (Recommendation 7). These counselors are also available to consult with social workers on cases involving substance-abuse issues and receive guidance on how best to handle them.
- Substance abuse counselors have been outstationed in 11 DCFS regional offices—Lancaster, Palmdale, Van Nuys, Santa Clarita, Glendora, Pomona, Pasadena, Covina Annex, West Los Angeles, Vermont Corridor, and Compton East. Space for a counselor is being identified in the other nine regional offices.
 - These counselors have been trained in healing-informed care and have received an overview of mental illness and substance-use disorders, including risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems.
- ✧ Worked with DMH and DCFS to secure commitments to outstation three clinicians in DCFS offices to provide consultation to social workers at different contact points with families at which a potential mental health issue may exist (Recommendation 7). These clinicians would be available to answer questions, give advice, discuss intervention options, and help connect families with appropriate services.
- DMH would like to outstation one clinician each at the Child Protection Hotline, the Emergency Response Command Post, and the Lancaster Regional Office, as a start, and anticipates submitting a request for additional staff positions to do so.
- ✧ Information on the implementation of the Anthony A. recommendations involving Recommendation 3, Structured Decision Making[®] (SDM), and the Medical Hubs (Recommendation 5) are in the “Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation” below and the “County Medical Hubs” section on page 12.

Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation

- Partnering with DCFS to implement the recommendations outlined by the OCP in its report of May 2017
 - ✧ The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) began its work assessing the use of SDM in the field here in Los Angeles County to start identifying what policy, training, and practice changes are needed to ensure the proper use of the tool.
 - ✧ Held a meeting in August with DCFS staff who represent their regional offices on the Core Leadership Team to discuss the SDM risk assessment tool, the analytics behind its development, and its validity for use with California residents; the group then brainstormed solutions to current policy and practice issues that affect the fidelity of SDM use
 - ✧ A survey is being disseminated this week to all DCFS Child Protection Hotline and emergency-response social workers designed to uncover barriers to proper SDM use.
 - ✧ NCCD researchers and program staff spent time observing DCFS casework decision-making and SDM use at the Hotline, the Emergency Response Command Post, and three regional offices (Van Nuys, Glendora, and Santa Clarita). Observations included 20 Hotline calls, interviews with Hotline staff after each call, and four “ride-along” investigations occurring in the field.

DCFS Hotline Pilot

- Launched a pilot project with DCFS’ Hotline and the P&As on June 28, 2018, to serve families referred to the Hotline whose concerns do not warrant a DCFS investigation, but where an identified need exists that could be addressed through community-based prevention supports
 - ✧ Submitted a report to the Board on this project, *Implementing the Joint DCFS-OCP Community Prevention Linkages Project (Hotline)*, on September 24, 2018
 - ✧ Preliminary data shows that, since the pilot began, more families are being referred to the P&As for supports, and the number of families accepting these services is increasing.

	June 2018	PILOT STARTS July	August	September	October 1–18
Number of families referred to the P&As	141	209	245	315	246
Percentage of families accepting services	13.5%	22%	22%	20%	18.7%

Use of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) in Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare PHN (CWPHN) Steering Committee is continuing to meet to address issues resulting from the consolidation of the child welfare PHNs into DPH, and has begun working to implement some of the recommendations from the OCP's report on the *Best Use of PHNs in Child Welfare* (December 2017). These efforts include addressing workload and space issues, monitoring psychotropic medication use for youth in care, and clarifying the PHNs' role in the County's medical Hubs
 - ✧ With support from Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721, DPH permanently transferred and reassigned the PHNs who were part of the joint-visitation pilot project to the investigation side of the general Child Welfare PHN unit.

Electronic Data-Sharing Efforts

- Working with DCFS, the CIO, and County Counsel on the production of an electronic portal that would facilitate the electronic sharing of information relevant to an investigation of child abuse or neglect across seven county departments and DCFS, based upon an MOU that the OCP finalized with the participating departments, County Counsel, and the CEO
 - ✧ The Emergency Response Investigation Service (ERIS) is now being used by emergency-response workers in all DCFS offices except for Wateridge North, which is scheduled for ERIS training on November 6. Accessible data in this initial phase of ERIS includes DCFS history and criminal-background information, which helps streamline DCFS investigations and placing children with relatives when a removal is necessary.
 - ✧ Working with DMH and DHS to add relevant data from their systems to ERIS to further enhance the comprehensiveness of DCFS investigations of child abuse and neglect
- Working with the Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services (LANES), DPH, County Counsel, DCFS, and the CEO to provide access to LANES, a health information exchange system, for PHNs who are helping to coordinate health care for DCFS youth. With this access, PHNs will be able to use the LANES portal to view timely health records for their child welfare clients, as appropriate, to coordinate care and ensure effective treatment.
 - ✧ A Data Participation Agreement is being finalized between DPH and LANES, and the parties are identifying next steps to implementation.

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

- Continuing to monitor the progress of the upfront family-finding project launched in October 2015 in the Glendora and Santa Fe Springs DCFS offices, then expanded to the Vermont Corridor and West L.A. DCFS offices in January 2018
 - ✧ Results show that, of the approximately 2,000 children who have been the subject of detention hearings from the four offices during the project, 78% have been placed with kin, including non-offending parents, other relatives, and non-related extended family members.
 - ✧ Planning is underway to expand the project to four additional DCFS offices—Santa Clarita, West San Fernando Valley, Wateridge North, and Wateridge South.

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

- On August 20, 2018, the OCP released its report on increasing permanency for TAY as an adjunct memo to the CEO's July 6, 2018, multi-year countywide strategy to support the self-sufficiency goals of TAY foster youth. These two companion reports reflect the overarching continuum of supports necessary to both reduce the number of TAY aging out of the system and increase the self-sufficiency of TAY who do age out.
- Worked with the CEO and other partners to finalize the business requirements for the TAY Centralized Hub

Transitional Shelter Care (TSC) Pilot

- Continue to convene bi-weekly meetings with stakeholders—including DCFS, Probation, the Juvenile Court, CLC, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the Violence Intervention Program (VIP), County Counsel, and others—to discuss the multidisciplinary teaming pilot led by DCFS' Accelerated Placement Team to stabilize and find permanency for hard-to-place youth (i.e., overstays and chronic repeaters) at TSCs
 - ✧ Discuss individual cases with regional social workers and their engagement teams so partners can help identify solutions to issues being raised
 - ✧ A total of 52 youth have been served by this pilot, 33 of whom (63%) increased the average length of time they spent in a single placement, and 34 of whom (65%) decreased the number of placements they needed after entering the pilot program.
 - ✧ Data shows that a total number of 48,999 hours were spent working with the 52 pilot youth to stabilize their placements prior to their coming to the TSC. By contrast, the number of hours spent working with these same youth to stabilize their placements *after* the pilot intervention dropped to 30,425 (a difference of

18,574 hours), demonstrating the positive effect of the pilot in finding, stabilizing, and maintaining placements for these hard-to-place youth.

✧ Two recent examples of pilot youth and their progress:

- NW is a 16-year-old female with a long history of psychiatric hospitalizations for behavioral issues including stealing, aggression, and homicidal ideation against her adoptive family. After entering foster care and being placed at a TSC, NW began participating in various forms of individual and group therapy as well as monthly multidisciplinary team meetings, attending school regularly, and participating in community outings. After a year, NW transitioned to a group home because it was determined that she was not yet ready for a lower level of care. Since being at the group home, NW has continued participating in treatment and demonstrating progress in her behavior. For this current school year, she has earned 3 As and 3 Cs, was selected to participate in DCFS' 2018 Quinceañera celebration (her self-esteem has significantly increased as demonstrated by her ability to speak to reporters and perform a waltz in front of an audience), and she is now able to use community passes on the weekends. She has not been hospitalized since entering the TSC in 2016. Her team recently determined that she is ready to transition from the group home to a specialized foster home.
- NMD is an 18-year-old female who came into care at age 16 after being abandoned by her mother. She had difficulty maintain a placement and was described as rude and assaultive, frequently running away and using drugs. After entering the pilot program, NMD developed a positive relative with her pilot social worker, and began being described by her new caregivers as respectful, intelligent, and in compliance with all house rules. She is now stable, living on her own, and attending school, and she no longer uses any type of drugs.

GOAL 4: WELL-BEING *Ensure that system-involved youth achieve the physical, emotional, and social health needed to be successful.*

Efforts to Improve Educational Achievement

- Continuing to partner with DCFS, Los Angeles County school districts, and LACOE to develop processes and policies for implementing the foster youth school-stability provisions included in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The ECC, DCFS, LACOE, LAUSD, and WDACS are implementing a transportation pilot to keep foster youth in their schools of origin. The pilot, in effect through June 30, 2019, is intended to be a “bridge solution” and learning opportunity as long-term transportation agreements between DCFS and the districts are finalized.
- ✧ To date, the pilot has provided over 12,000 school-of-origin transportation rides to more than 500 foster youth.

- ✧ LACOE has committed \$250,000 and DCFS has committed \$800,000 to cover these rides through June 30, 2019.
- ✧ Worked with partners to transfer the contract for the private vendor, HopSkipDrive, from LACOE to within the County, where it will now be administered by WDACS. WDACS has extensive experience administering transportation contracts for vulnerable populations throughout the county, and foster youth are a priority population for that department. Its administration of the HopSkipDrive contract will enable it to additionally connect older foster students to workforce services as appropriate.
- ✧ The ESSA Transportation Workgroup is working with DCFS and LAUSD to negotiate final terms for a long-term transportation plan (LAUSD serves approximately 45% of Los Angeles County's foster youth).
- ✧ Other counties, such as Riverside, continue to request our project materials and tools, as well as information on the policies and procedures developed in Los Angeles County, as they begin considering how to implement this work in their own jurisdictions.
- Worked with LACOE and DCFS to create a detailed strategic plan with short- and long-term strategies, timelines, and milestones for the development and enhancement of the data-sharing Education Passport System (EPS). These enhancements will improve access to clean and consistent education data that will help providers identify student needs, facilitate access to services, and evaluate outcomes. A plan is in place to transition social workers currently using the School Information Tracking System (SITS) to EPS in early 2019.
- Partnering with FosterEd to improve college readiness in the Antelope Valley
 - ✧ Education liaisons co-located in the Antelope Valley Union High School and Lancaster School districts are now providing teaming and intensive supports to 20 foster youth attending those schools, as well as serving as their education champions.
 - Some challenges were identified in connecting with foster youths' education rights holders (ERHs) to obtain consent for youth to participate in the program; the ECC helped develop a plan for engaging ERHs through children's attorneys and the Juvenile Court.
 - ✧ FosterEd is further supporting the educational achievement of foster youth in the Antelope Valley by:
 - Drafting an MOU to give DCFS social workers access to FosterEd's software, EdTeamConnect, that makes it easier to track educational progress for students who are enrolled in the pilot program

- Partnering with John Burton Advocates for Youth to begin engaging social workers and youth in early college planning
- Partnering with DCFS, Probation, LACOE and other stakeholders to enhance support for the post-secondary educational attainment of foster youth by participating in the *California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge*, implementing SB 12 provisions, engaging with foster youth advocates, and developing recommendations for increasing financial-aid application rates among foster youth
 - ✧ On October 24, 2018, the ECC focused its quarterly meeting on actions LACOE, DCFS, and Probation had taken to increase FAFSA submission rates last year, and their plans for further improvements this academic year. The ECC agreed to develop next steps and track progress towards reaching these goals, as well as for the implementation of relevant sections of SB 12.

County Medical Hubs

- Partnering with DCFS, the Health Agency, DHS, DMH, and DPH to determine gaps and help improve access to timely health and dental exams for DCFS-supervised youth
 - ✧ Partnered with DHS, DCFS, and other stakeholders to identify a set of short- and long-term strategies to improve staffing capacity and services at the High Desert Hub, outlined in the *OCP Coordinated Response to the Anthony A. Board Motion* (August 10, 2018). Examples of recent improvements to the High Desert Hub include:
 - While working on a longer-term staffing plan, DHS has deployed staff from other regional Hubs to the High Desert so that forensic-exam appointments are now available three days per week, increasing to five days per week in November 2018. This increased staffing and service capacity has led to a rise in forensic-exam appointments at the High Desert Hub from 5 in July to 25 in September, as well as increasing the number of initial medical exams (IMEs) completed, from 88 in July to 214 in September.
 - DMH has also expanded staffing at the High Desert Hub (from one full-time clinician to two, plus two rotating part-time clinicians), resulting in increased numbers of mental health screenings—108 in July to 173 in September.
 - DHS forensic-exam providers are piloting the availability of 24/7 phone consultations to DCFS workers and regional medical centers for forensic consultation and referral assistance.
 - ✧ Partnered with DHS, DCFS, the Health Agency, DMH, and DPH to develop a comprehensive report identifying policy and practice areas for improvement in the overall Hub system, as well as next steps to address each. Areas include scope of services and target population, access and availability, information

technology and data, quality assurance, fiscal sustainability, and governance and accountability. DHS submitted this report to the Board on October 29, 2018.

- ✧ Developed a detailed work plan with milestones and timelines to improve the overall Hub system in phases, with a focus on timely access to core services like forensic and IMEs in the near term, and developing an implementation plan for potentially broadening Hub services in the longer term. Working with DHS, DCFS, DMH, and DPH to implement and track progress on the Hub improvement work plan.

Mental Health Assessment Coordination

- Partnering with DMH, DCFS, and stakeholders on the coordination and delivery of front-end mental health screenings and assessments for DCFS-involved youth to streamline the overall process for children and families
 - ✧ Convened department leadership from DCFS and DMH, as well as other County leadership and stakeholders, to learn from Chapin Hall about Illinois' Integrated Assessment model, which efficiently coordinates screening, assessments (mental health, health, and dental), and case planning for dependency youth. Brainstormed next steps to streamline Los Angeles County's front-end screening and assessment processes for DCFS-involved youth, including developing crosswalks and process maps of existing mental health and child welfare assessments, and improving the Hub system.
 - ✧ Partnering with DCFS and DMH to design a process evaluation of front-end mental health assessments for DCFS-involved youth; possibilities under discussion include assessing the Multidisciplinary Assessment Team and Coordinated Services Action Team processes and how they interact with other critical touchpoints—the dependency court process, Child and Family Teams, etc.

Addressing Psychotropic Medication Use in Child Welfare

- Continuing to hold monthly meetings of the Psychotropic Medication Workgroup to oversee the implementation of the protocols adopted in April 2017 for approving and monitoring the use of psychotropic medications for youth in out-of-home care
- Working with DCFS and Probation to develop data reports on the use of psychotropic medication with system-involved youth in Los Angeles County that would be provided to the Board quarterly
 - ✧ Snapshot data from the California Department of Social Welfare Data Analysis Bureau, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), at the University of California, Berkeley, from April 1 through June 30, 2018, show:
 - 1,674 children and youth authorized to receive psychotropic medication in the child-welfare system

- 146 youth authorized to receive psychotropic medication in the juvenile-justice system
- ✧ Working with DCFS and Probation to receive more comprehensive data that will be compared to state data and shared with the Board
- On August 20, 2018, the OCP filed a report to the Board, *Psychotropic Medication—Youth Engagement and Transition-Age Youth (TAY)*, as an adjunct to the response filed to the Board’s request for a multiyear countywide strategy to support the self-sufficiency goals of TAY. It contains several recommended systematic approaches to youth engagement designed to prepare TAY for making medication decisions on their own upon reaching the age of majority.
 - ✧ In September, the CWPHNs began pilot-testing the use of the new Psychotropic Medication Youth Engagement Worksheet.

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.*

Dual-Status Youth Motion

- On March 20, 2018, the Board directed the OCP, in collaboration with multiple County stakeholders and others, to report back on a countywide plan for dual-status youth.
- Submitted a status report to the Board, *OCP Response to Dual-Status Motion* (September 11, 2018); among the noted activities were:
 - ✧ Continuing workgroup meetings to address the Board’s directive with all relevant stakeholders, including creating and convening three subcommittees
 - Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee—examining prevention within the context of risk factors
 - Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) Section 241.1 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Subcommittee—reviewing existing dual-status protocols to determine if any updating is necessary
 - Data Subcommittee—developing the capability to support an effective database to track case management and outcomes
 - ✧ Reviewing data on the number of crossover and dual-status youth
 - ✧ Coordinating efforts with the Youth Diversion and Development Steering Committee of the Office of Diversion and Re-entry

Additional OCP Activities

- Participated in a regional meeting sponsored by Casey Family Programs on the Family First Prevention Services Act in Denver on August 1, 2018
- Panelist for Children's Data Network convening on data trends within child welfare at the University of Southern California on August 6, 2018
- Winner of an Outstanding IT Project Award, in partnership with DCFS and the CIO, for the Emergency Response Investigation Service (ERIS) from Government Technology on August 28, 2018
- Panelist for "Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Toxic Stress: Translating the Science into Practice," hosted by the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment and First 5 LA on September 12, 2018
- Guest speaker for OCP community convening hosted by Supervisor Solis at the Centro Maravilla on September 12, 2018
- Interviewed for Netflix documentary on child welfare and the Gabriel Fernandez case on September 21, 2018
- Presented on the joint DCFS Hotline/OCP Community Prevention Linkages pilot project to the County's Commission for Children and Families on October 1, 2018
- Met with Jerry Milner and David Kelly from the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss opportunities for prevention on October 11, 2018
- Participated in a 21st Century Child Welfare System convening sponsored by Casey Family Programs in Santa Monica on October 25 and 26, 2018
- Launched a new OCP website, <http://ocp.lacounty.gov/>, that includes our project updates, reports submitted to the Board, and other relevant information on our activities

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.

Each Supervisor
October 31, 2018
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (213) 893-1152 or via email at mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov, or your staff may contact Carrie Miller at (213) 893-0862 or via email at cmiller@ocp.lacounty.gov.

MN:CDM:eih

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