



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Acting Director

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District
SHEILA KUEHL
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

August 3, 2017

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Brandon T. Nichols *BTN*
Acting Director

**UPDATE TO THE JUNE 21, 2017 PROGRESS REPORT REGARDING THE COUNTYWIDE
UPFRONT FAMILY FINDING PROTOCOL**

On May 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a board motion directing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide a report on a countywide Upfront Family Finding protocol. The report was submitted to your Board on September 30, 2016.

On June 21, 2017, a progress report was provided to your Board highlighting the implementation of the Upfront Family Finding pilot. Baseline data provided was from the pre-pilot period of *July through September, 2016*, three months prior to the official pilot launch, which occurred in October, 2016. During this time, pre-pilot planning activities had begun and multiple pilot efforts were already occurring. Family search and engagement training, implementation tracking, and practice changes, were being discussed with staff and management.

This data was provided to give context to the pre-launch status in the three months leading up to the pilot. The Santa Fe Springs office had an average of 79% initial relative placements during this time period and Glendora had an average of 62%. Some members of the team began to immediately implement practice changes which contributed to early improvement in the baseline data.

This memo provides updated baseline data for relative placement averages of children placed with relatives following any detention during the preceding months of *March through June, 2016*, prior to the implementation of any pilot planning activities. Using the DCFS data dashboard, the Santa Fe Springs office showed a relative placement average of 59% and Glendora showed an average of 53%. These averages reflect relative placement at all stages of a case, as opposed to only children who were newly detained.

Additionally, we would like to report the most current relative placement data available for both pilot offices.

- **Santa Fe Springs:** The Santa Fe Springs office reported initial relative placement percentages of 89% for April and 79% for May, 2017, increasing their overall average percentage to 82% for the pilot months of October, 2016 through May, 2017.
- **Glendora:** The Glendora office reported initial relative placement percentages of 83% for April and 100% for May, 2017, increasing their overall average percentage to 75% for the pilot months of October, 2016 through May, 2017.

Upfront Family Finding Pilot: Early Findings

DCFS Office	Mar-Jun 2016 (all placements)	Jul-Sept 2016 (new detentions only)*	Oct 2016-May 2017 (new detentions only)	% Increase from Mar-Jun 2016
Santa Fe Springs	59%	79%	82%	23%
Glendora	53%	62%	75%	22%

* We suspect the increase in family finding placements during this period is due in part to pre-pilot activities.

Early results appear to demonstrate that the Upfront Family Finding pilot is already contributing to an increase in relative placement averages for both offices. Using the pre-implementation pilot data for each office, as compared to the pilot period for relative placement rates, there is an increase of 23% for the Santa Fe Springs office and for the Glendora office, there is a 22% increase. Both offices continue to track relative placement averages to evaluate how Upfront Family Finding practice is contributing to increased relative placement rates.

The Department is grateful for your support in increasing Upfront Family Finding efforts that may ultimately lead to more children remaining with their families. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison at (213) 351-5530.

BN:KR:GC

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Officer
Commission for Children and Families
Office of Child Protection