August 1, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

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), entitled "The Road To Safety For Our Children," one of the key recommendations was to "Establish an entity to oversee one unified child protection system." On June 10, 2014, your Board adopted the recommendations contained within the BRCCP final report, and took action to establish the Office of Child Protection (OCP) as a separate entity that would report directly to the Board and be located within the Executive Office. The Chief Executive Office created the interim OCP within its office on February 2, 2015, as part of the Board Priorities initiatives. Fesia Davenport served as the Interim Director with seven staff positions on loan to the unit.

On August 11, 2015, and later revised on September 8, 2015, the classification ordinance for the position of the Executive Director, Office of Child Protection was adopted which formally created the OCP within the Executive Office. On November 3, 2015, Judge Michael Nash (Ret.) was appointed Executive Director with an effective start date of January 4, 2016. Below is an update of the OCP’s progress made since that date.

OCP Strategic Plan

- Developed based on Countywide convenings and targeted focus groups that included over 500 participants of department staff, advocates, commissioners, community stakeholders, philanthropy, and others (focus groups included foster youth still in care and those who have transitioned out of the system, relative caregivers, foster parents, and DCFS line staff)
- Vetted the draft plan with BOS, department heads of 16 County departments, and a number of key stakeholders, including, but not limited to, First 5 LA, Juvenile Court, Southern California Grantmakers, Community Coalition, California Youth Connection, County Commission for Children and Families,
Children’s Law Center of California, Public Counsel, Alliance for Children’s Rights, etc.
Finalized the draft plan and shared with BOS deputies and key Department Directors for final review

Formation of the OCP Office
- Developed the Office’s organizational structure that was approved by the CEO’s Classification and Compensation units
- Developed the operating budget which was approved on 6/27/16
- Worked to secure sufficient office space and relocated staff in March 2016

Reestablishing the Education Coordinating Council (ECC)
- Hired the new permanent ECC Director
- Reinstated quarterly meeting schedule
- Developed an updated strategic plan that was adopted by the ECC on 7/20/16
- Member of the LA Compact Executive Committee

Staffing for the Center of Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (CSPPPP)
- Hired Center Director who began on 4/1/16
- Determined Center’s additional staffing needs, and cleared items and Job Description with CEO Classification
- Separate update was submitted to BOS on Center’s recent activity on 7/1/16

Drafting of a Countywide Prevention Plan
- Working with County and community partners to develop a Countywide prevention plan that expands and links together existing community networks and supports earlier access to a range of services and supports
- Met with DCFS’s Prevention and Aftercare Networks (PANs) to discuss conceptual vision; got support from them for the direction
- Beginning to explore the need for outcome measures of prevention with First 5 LA and others
- Advancement Project completed a report on high risk/high need zip codes across LA County
- Casey has agreed to help with mapping prevention resources in a few high risk areas

Review of DCFS Death and Critical Incident Reports
- Reviewing the last 5 years of DCFS’ death and critical incident reports to inform recommendations for system improvements

Increasing the Use of Relative Placements
- Partnering with DCFS to develop a plan to increase the use of relative placements
- Supervisor Kuehl and Solis Family Finding Motion – 5/31/16
Children's Social Worker (CSW) – Public Health Nurses (PHN) Joint Visit Pilot

- Reviewed 9 months of pilot implementation data
- Met with PHN union representatives, both DCFS and DPH PHNs, and department representatives
- Submitted report to BOS on June 30, 2016
- Recommendations included ceasing pilot, consolidating current PHNs under DPH, and taking a global approach to determining the best use of PHNs in child welfare
- Will be working on the response to the Board Motion being considered at the 8/2/16 Board Meeting on the feasibility of consolidating the PHNs under DPH, if it passes

Electronic Data Sharing Efforts

- Held meeting with over 30 representatives across relevant County departments
- Identified preliminary list of information that needs to be shared with respect to children and families
- Convening ongoing workgroup with County Counsel to evaluate what’s currently allowable to share and what requires additional action
- Working with the Administration for Children and Families on releasing a clarification on the authority and expectation for localities to share child welfare data electronically
- Participating on workgroup developed to address data sharing in Justice system in response to Supervisor Solis Motion on 5-31-16
- Participating in CWMMD governance committee
- Solved existing barrier for sharing data across DCFS and CSS that hindered youth getting access to subsidized summer jobs

Transitional Shelter Care (TSC)/Emergency Shelter Care (ESC) Pilot

- Convened partners to develop and implement a teaming model pilot for working with hard-to-place youth (i.e., overstays and chronic repeaters) in Transitional Shelter Care
- Developed a Pilot Project Protocol for testing the teaming model
- Regularly monitoring results of the pilot
- With initial results promising, looking to expand pilot to Emergency Shelter Care
- Updated Health/Mental Health Cluster on 6/22/16

Addressing Psychotropic Medication Use in Child Welfare

- Working with the Juvenile Court, DMH, and multiple stakeholders to enhance the psychotropic medication process by ensuring that Judges are getting the best information possible to make informed decisions on medication requests, and, when medications are approved, making sure appropriate oversight is in place through training and other means
  - Phase in new Statewide forms
  - Judicial officer training
    - DMH has begun a process for credentialing applicable prescribing doctors
- Provided input to State auditors on the County’s psychotropic medication process
• Comments submitted to Judicial Council on use of PHNs, etc., in January 2016
• Exploring making the psychotropic medication authorization process electronic (through ePMA)
• Exploring use of electronic monitoring system for psychotropic medications (that would allow for analyses of prescribing and user patterns)
• Working with Rutgers University to provide technical assistance to DCFS to better understand Medi-Cal claims data; potential to be part of larger national study on psychotropic medication use for foster youth (PCORI study)

Multi-Departmental Cross-Training Convening
• Working with the University Consortium (UCCF), DCFS, DMH, Probation, DPH, and the Health Agency to plan a multi-departmental cross-training on DCFS’s and DMH’s Shared Core Practice Model, a promising practice for engaging families in their own case planning
• Focusing on countywide rollout of the core practice model
• Cross-training on functions and available resources within each participating department so that staff understand what’s available in other departments

Evaluation of LGBTQ Services Provided to Youth by the County
• Evaluating the LGBTQ services currently provided by County departments to youth
• Full report to be completed in December 2016

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee
• Attending steering committee meetings
• Participating in meetings to draft the Safe Youth Zone protocol
• Incorporated CSEC discussions into the TSC and ECC meetings

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Committee
• Attending ongoing committee meetings with County departments, Alliance for Children’s Rights, Public Counsel, and others

OCP Presentations
• To date presentations include:
  o Community Coalition
  o Southern California Grantmakers (SCG)
  o Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA)
  o Fatherhood Conference
  o County Commission for Children and Families – on the OCP activities overall and the prevention work
  o Prevention and Aftercare Networks (PANs) Convening
  o Hilton Convening on CalYouth Study
  o ICAN Grief Conference
  o District Attorney’s Victims’ Symposium
  o Los Angeles County System Improvement Plan Stakeholder Engagement Process
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 which will be coordinated through the Chief Executive Office. 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

c: Chief Executive Office
   Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
   Alternate Public Defender
   Child Support Services
   Chief Information Office
   Children and Family Services
   Community and Senior Services
   County Counsel
   District Attorney
   Fire
   Health Services
   Mental Health
   Parks and Recreation
   Probation
   Public Defender
   Public Health
   Public Library
   Public Social Services
   Sheriff

OCP Progress Update BM_August 2016