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To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 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](#),¹ 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 April 30, 2020.

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

- 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 Preven-

¹ [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/OCP Background/Blue Ribbon Commission Final Report \(04-18-2014\).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083549-867](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/OCP%20Background/Blue%20Ribbon%20Commission%20Final%20Report%20(04-18-2014).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083549-867)

tion 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

- Shared key family financial-stability resources through the P&As, First 5 LA's Best Start communities, the County's Health Neighborhoods, and other networks in the wake of COVID-19. These included rental subsidy, small-business support, and foreclosure-related assistance offered through the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA); federal stimulus and CalFresh-related resources; subsidized technology for schooling to access resources and to reduce isolation; and other food, housing, child care, and emergency financial supports.
 - The Center for Strategic Partnerships and the OCP in July hosted a strategic convening of County and philanthropic leadership focused on how public/private partnerships could improve the County's ability to help families not only survive short-term crises, but rise above paycheck-to-paycheck poverty to achieve family economic security. Themes surfaced at the convening included the intersection of health, economic well-being, and equity; the importance of supporting small businesses, protecting against foreclosures, and developing both short-term and long-term career ladder workforce programs; and the ways in which philanthropic support might help County departments better leverage federal funds. The Center will work with its steering committee, County departments, philanthropic leaders, and the OCP to define next steps in developing public/private partnerships and action plans based on this input.
- ✧ 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 to serve more families
- Worked closely with multiple partners to identify additional funding to expand the current capacity of the P&As and to ensure, in particular, that they are able to serve families at risk of entering the child-welfare system. While significant collective support exists for this, the current budget climate makes this increasingly difficult; efforts will continue, however, until all avenues are exhausted. A motion by Supervisors Hahn and Solis scheduled for the August 4, 2020, Board meeting seeks to further support this approach.
- ✧ Home Visitation Working with DPH, First 5 LA, DMH, DCFS, the Probation Department, the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Children's Data Network, the Center for Strategic Partnerships, the Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN), and the LA County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium (Consortium) to support the availability of home-visitation services for vulnerable families
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2019–2020 presented both funding challenges and opportunities for Healthy Families America (HFA) and Parents As Teachers (PAT)

home-visiting services: DMH funding for home visiting was reduced, but DPSS's CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) funding increased and DPH received new California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) expansion funds. These net changes allowed DPH to maintain funding for existing HFA/PAT agencies, but not to expand services to other families in need.

- *DMH HFA/PAT Funding Decrease:* Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) expansion sustained a 67% funding decrease during the latter part of FY 2019–2020, resulting in a capacity decrease from 2,850 to 600 clients served via this funding stream, plus the elimination of DMH funding for the Parents As Teachers program. This resulted in HFA and PAT agencies having to move DMH-funded clients into DPSS HVP, CHVP, or First 5 LA's Best Start 7HFA or PAT home-visiting programs. The agencies were resilient and successful in placing a majority of their clients into these three alternative HFA or PAT home-visiting programs.
- *CalWORKs Home Visiting Program:* Starting in FY 2020–2021, CalWORKs funding increased by 113% for each agency in preparation for full implementation, which will result in 3,150 families receiving CalWORKs-funded home-visiting services. The additional funding allows agencies to maintain existing trained home visitors previously funded by DMH. As of June 30, 2020, DPH successfully transferred 193 eligible DMH-funded clients over to CalWORKs. Currently, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), HFA, and PAT provide home-visiting services to 305 CalWORKs families. Efforts are underway—including a robust media campaign—to increase home-visiting services through this funding stream to an additional 2,845 families.
- *California Home Visiting Program, State General Fund (CHVP SGF) Expansion:* DPH received an additional \$3.6 million from CHVP SGF starting in July 2020 that is being used to fund 9 PAT programs with 3 home visitors each. This allows PAT agencies to serve 675 families, a significant drop from the 1,300 families previously funded by DMH.

As of June 30, 2020, approximately 2,600 clients were receiving home-visiting services funded by the DMH, DPSS, and CHVP Expansion. DPH and other partners continue to enroll families into home-visiting services.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, all three home-visiting models have implemented telehealth procedures and maintained contact with clients. As part of home visiting, DPSS issued 60 checks to DPSS clients in need of essential items (e.g., formula, cribs, strollers). In addition, First 5 LA and DPH worked with the nonprofit Baby2Baby and the federal supplemental nutrition program Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to distribute 1.5 million diapers to over 4,000 families. This effort included services donated by Paramount Studios to deliver the diapers, plus three home-visiting organizations serving as distribution hubs to more than 40 programs representing home-visiting providers, Best Start regional networks, and other community partners.

- Los Angeles's home-visiting programs and their COVID-response efforts were highlighted in multiple media outlets, including [The Chronicle of Social Change](#),² the [California Health Report](#),³ First 5 LA's [Center for Children's Policy](#),⁴ and California State University Northridge's [The Sundial](#).⁵
- The OCP and DPH hosted two Home Visiting Collaborative Leadership Group meetings in May and July, respectively, the first focused on a continued COVID-19 response for the home-visiting field and its families, and the second exploring strategic planning efforts (see below) and expanding best practices in African-American family engagement. The results of community-based research around African-American engagement were shared by First 5, which plans to promote that knowledge widely—an improvement that has been a goal for our home-visiting system for more than a year. With racial-justice advocacy prominent this summer, it was a timely topic for the group to move forward to action.
- MAMA'S Neighborhood is the standard of perinatal care at DHS that includes home visits to families with the highest stress/risk, using a multidisciplinary triad of care to improve birth outcomes and decrease infant and maternal mortality via home-care coordinators, nurses, and social-work therapists. Healthy Start, a federal program through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has expanded DHS' capacity to provide longer-term, more intensive support to 700 pregnant and parenting (prenatal to 18 months postpartum) African-American/Black and Hispanic mothers, infants, and fathers/partners collectively each year in unserved regions within the Antelope, San Fernando, and San Gabriel valleys and in downtown Metro Los Angeles. To date, 122 families have enrolled under this new funding, approximately 51% of whom are of African-American and Black descent. MAMA'S Neighborhood expects not only to meet its enrollment goals and make notable changes in adverse rates of birth outcomes and infant and maternal mortality, but also to identify families in great need—especially in these unprecedented COVID times—who cannot be served unless augmented care-coordination and social-work staffing is made possible.

² <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/child-welfare-2/home-visitors-left-to-check-on-parents-from-afar/44493>

³ <https://www.calhealthreport.org/2020/06/26/californias-home-visiting-program-aims-to-help-the-next-generation-rise-from-inequality/>

⁴ <https://first5center.org/blog/successes-and-a-silver-lining-to-virtual-home-visiting-in-la>

⁵ https://sundial.csun.edu/157915/news/el-nido-family-center-provides-vulnerable-families-with-resources-to-deal-with-pandemic/?fbclid=IwAR0R-VzQNCADbgvUNneoeJ8Foc_FzpRkYB2Nk4LnKI4GqQC785-Qju5HOaU

- Three parallel, interrelated home-visiting strategic-planning efforts continue apace:
 - County sustainability and system-building, being led by Jeanna Capito with support from the Heising-Simons Foundation
 - Los Angeles Best Babies Network's role as the key technical assistance, training, and data consolidator for County home-visiting efforts, being led by Gina Airey Consulting with support from the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment
 - The October 2019 Board motion response being led by the Department of Public Health, which anticipates submitting a report-back on its assessment of and recommendations for home visiting for homeless and other at-risk women to the Board in August 2020

- ✧ Early Care and Education (ECE) Working with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, First 5 LA, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), DCFS, DPH, the Los Angeles County 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, the P&A networks, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and others to create a roadmap for improving access to early care and education programs

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the newly formed Los Angeles County Early Childhood Education (ECE) Response Team—consisting of DPH's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, First 5 LA, CCALA, LACOE, DHS, the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, Child 360, the Hospital Association of Southern California, the Center for Strategic Partnerships, and City of Los Angeles—collaborated with local resource and referral agencies to achieve a systemic response to the urgent need for concrete and non-concrete support among our essential workforce, including health care and crisis-response workers. The team's efforts brought about the timely creation of a hotline and central website for the essential workforce and child care community, multiple well-attended community-guidance conference calls, safer child care environments, and connections to care and child care subsidies for thousands of families.
 - Since March, the Response Team—led by the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, LACOE, and First 5 LA—has focused its efforts on supporting open ECE programs during COVID-19.
 - From April through the end of May 2020, partner agencies provided 2,361 families and 3,747 children with vouchers; 2,552 of those families were essential critical infrastructure workers.

- Through funding from SB 89, plus generous donations from the private and corporate sectors, CCALA agencies have provided more than 1.5 million items to support child care providers through the pandemic.
 - There are 4,541 licensed child care programs open in Los Angeles County, including 3,792 family child care homes and 748 providers of center-based care. With 54% of licensed ECE programs open, the system has the capacity to serve an additional 17,885 children.
 - Follow-up on the [Comprehensive Financial Assessment \(CFA\)](#)⁶ has shifted during COVID-19; First 5 LA and the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education are reassessing the CFA plan in light of the pandemic.
- ✧ Measuring Prevention Working with First 5 LA, DMH, DCFS, the Children’s Data Network, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Chief Information Office (CIO), 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
- Finalizing with partners the data dashboards and stories for 6 impact indicators and 17 corresponding actionable indicators to be included in a preliminary Countywide Prevention Metrics report to be released in late fall 2020
- ✧ Information, Referral, and Connection System Based on the capabilities observed during the Centralized Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Hub Request for Information (RFI) vendor presentations in July 2019, the CEO, CIO, DCFS, and OCP jointly agreed that the TAY Hub’s creation presents a strategic opportunity for the County to more effectively meet the service information and referral needs of County departments and specialized populations such as TAY. To this end, the CEO and CIO are collaborating with the OCP, County departments, and other stakeholders to include the TAY Hub as part of the procurement of a new information and referral service to be integrated with an enhanced Los Angeles County Community Information Exchange (LACCIE), which will initially be rolled out to meet the needs of TAY. This new approach leverages and combines existing CIO platform/resources with new information and referral services to create a new countywide Information, Referral, and Connection (IR&C) system. A solicitation process for establishing the IR&C system will be initiated later this quarter. Efforts to date include:
- Held four webinars in June 2020 with 240 stakeholders—including community providers, county departments, TAY providers and advocates—to provide an overview of LACCIE and steps the County is taking to implement it; obtain feedback on how providers and departments currently make and receive referrals; and solicit opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of existing

⁶ [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Early%20Care%20and%20Education/Office%20of%20Child%20Protection%20\(OCP\)%20Submission%20of%20Early%20Care%20and%20Education%20Landscape%20Analysis%20\(12-04-19\).PDF?ver=2019-12-05-095200-747](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Early%20Care%20and%20Education/Office%20of%20Child%20Protection%20(OCP)%20Submission%20of%20Early%20Care%20and%20Education%20Landscape%20Analysis%20(12-04-19).PDF?ver=2019-12-05-095200-747)

1) Reevaluate DCFS's Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM) process.

The revised VFM policy is being finalized and is scheduled to be released on August 3, 2020.

2) Improve the skills of staff interviewing children.

A training video on different aspects of interviewing skills was released in June and is now required for supervising children's social workers in emergency response to complete. The required training for children's social workers was just released and will be available for them to complete through August.

3) Retrain social workers on the proper use of Structured Decision Making® (SDM).

See "Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation" on page 10 for a full description.

4) Increase collaboration between DCFS and law enforcement.

- The DCFS/LASD pilot to conduct joint investigations of alleged child abuse and neglect in the Antelope Valley is continuing, though staffing issues in Palmdale resulting from the pandemic have resulted in a scaled-back version in which social workers conduct joint investigations only on critical/urgent referrals.
 - Efforts to expand the pilot to the Santa Clarita DCFS office are once again underway. Its catchment area is served by both LASD's Santa Clarita Station and by the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD's) Mission and Foothill stations. A draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) is under review by County agencies, and an operational agreement is under review by both DCFS and LAPD.
- Work also continues on developing a comprehensive DCFS/law-enforcement protocol. The workgroup includes the OCP, DCFS, County Counsel, and representatives from LASD, LAPD, the District Attorney, and other police agencies. The group has focused on identifying the roles of social workers and law-enforcement personnel in conducting joint investigations. The protocol will also include an easily understood section on the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (eSCARS) and its role in coordinating investigations by DCFS and law enforcement.

5) Improve the Medical Hub system.

See the "County Medical Hubs" section on page 19 for a full description.

6) Improve the investigation skills of social workers at the front end and beyond.

- The state finalized a new Core Academy training for supervising social workers, and a local rollout began on February 26, 2020; 71 supervising social workers have now completed or are scheduled to complete this training.
- DCFS's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) division completed three activities in the first and second quarters of this year. The first was the completion of office profiles that captured a baseline for regional-office data, staffing, outcomes, and supports. These profiles are being shared with regional leadership through virtual presentation and discussion sessions held throughout the month of July 2020. The second was a snapshot comparison review of children from birth to age five in open referrals for physical abuse and sexual abuse on October 22, 2019. It compared a sample of children with a history of 6 or more prior referrals to a sample of children with 5 or fewer prior referrals. The third activity was a review of children in open Voluntary Family Maintenance plans with high or very high risk levels at the onset of the pandemic (March through May 2020). The review examined case practice for all children who did not have an in-person visit during the specified timeframe and a sub-sample of children who were seen virtually and/or in-person during that time. Aggregate findings for both reviews were summarized and are being shared with regional offices and programs in a variety of forums, including leadership, implementation, and general staff meetings.

7) Improve the capacity to assess needs and progress made throughout the span of the case.

DPH's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) unit, DMH, and DCFS have partnered to outstation substance-abuse counselors in DCFS regional offices to provide on-site support and connections to further substance-abuse supports for those parents or youth who need them. These counselors are also available to consult with social workers on cases involving substance-abuse issues and to offer guidance on how best to handle them.

- Substance-abuse counselors have been outstationed in 15 DCFS regional offices—Lancaster, Palmdale, Van Nuys, Santa Clarita, Chatsworth, Glendora, Pomona, Pasadena, Covina Annex, Metro North, West Los Angeles, Vermont Corridor, Compton East, El Monte, and Torrance. Additionally, counselors are now outstationed at a DPH office in SPA 7 to work with families served by the Belvedere and Santa Fe Springs offices.
 - DPH-SAPC reports that since the program launched on April 1, 2018, a total of 2,833 parents were referred by DCFS for substance-use screenings.
 - Of this number, 1,822 were screened for substance-use disorders; of the 1,584 with positive screens, 996 were admitted to treatment services within their communities.

- 670 (67%) of those admitted to treatment remained in treatment for more than 30 days, demonstrating tremendous improvement in their ability to take personal responsibility and improve their physical and mental health. The same outcomes were true for only 15.9% of those who left treatment early. An added benefit was that, after leaving treatment, 51 formerly homeless individuals were able to find stable housing.
- Funding for the SUD-TIPS (Substance Use Disorder–Trauma-Informed Parent Support) program provided by DMH ended on June 30, 2020. A Board motion by Supervisors Hahn and Solis scheduled for the August 4, 2020, Board meeting seeks to further support this program by exploring additional funding options.

8) Reduce social worker caseloads.

DCFS is continuing to work with County Counsel, the Children’s Law Center, and Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers to use the Court’s stipulation process to resolve as many cases as possible during the pandemic-related partial shutdown of the court system. DCFS hopes this effort—in addition to the use of the recently approved “non-appearance” adoption hearing process and a virtual National Adoption Saturday scheduled for November 21, 2020—will lead to more closures of DCFS cases and reductions in social-worker caseloads. DCFS continues to onboard graduates of the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) at the University of California Berkeley, and the addition of these employees will also help alleviate caseload burdens brought on by the effects of COVID-19.

Risk Assessment and System Improvement Recommendation Implementation

- Partnering with DCFS to implement the recommendations outlined by the OCP in its [report of May 2017](#)⁹
 - ✧ The National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) has rolled out a series of trainings on the use of Structured Decision Making® (SDM) in Los Angeles County. These trainings are specifically designed for our region and include policy and practice changes implemented as a result of the SDM fidelity review. Initial training focuses on the screening, removal, and case-opening decision process; later trainings will focus on reunification, permanency, and case-closing decisions.
 - ✧ DCFS regional administrators, assistant regional administrators, and supervisors began attending one-day “leadership and decision-making” trainings led by NCCD staff, which focused on sharing results from the recent fidelity review and ensuring that leadership understands both the policy changes that resulted from

⁹ [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Safety and Risk Assessment/SDM and Predictive Analytics Report \(Risk Assessment Tools\) \(May 2017\).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083910-100](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Safety%20and%20Risk%20Assessment/SDM%20and%20Predictive%20Analytics%20Report%20(Risk%20Assessment%20Tools)%20(May%202017).pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083910-100)

that review and how to facilitate case consultations with staff that integrate proper SDM use and key elements of the DCFS core practice model.

Eight of the planned 20 leadership trainings were conducted before quarantine orders were issued related to COVID-19. The training was reconfigured into a day-long remote session delivered by NCCD to DCFS leadership; 12 more of those sessions took place between May 6 and June 9, 2020. Feedback was very positive, with participants reporting much higher rates of understanding the purpose of the SDM safety and risk tools and better strategies for integrating them into case consults.

- ✧ Prior to quarantine orders, NCCD and DCFS developed a plan to have all DCFS supervisors and children's social workers attend a two-day "safety and risk" foundational training focused on best practices in safety assessment, safety planning, and risk assessment. This training was to be provided to more than 4,000 DCFS staff throughout 2020, necessitating approximately 80 sessions. NCCD was to lead approximately 20 of these and use those sessions to help the DCFS training unit develop the capacity/skills to facilitate the other 60 sessions.

This training was reconfigured into a two-day remote training; NCCD began those sessions on June 16 and 17, and approximately 2 sessions per week are now being held. The plan continues to be for NCCD to offer approximately 20 of these sessions, using that time to help build capacity for the DCFS training team and other contracted partners to provide the other 60 trainings. The goal is to reach all 4,000 front-line DCFS staff by the end of 2020.

- ✧ NCCD completed a review of how SDM is used in family reunification and case-closure casework, and this report was shared with DCFS leadership and the DCFS SDM core team in February. The core team (a group of DCFS workers, supervisors, and managers) reconvened remotely in June to finalize recommendations in these areas of practice.

In particular, recommendations for policy changes and training for DCFS dependency investigations and continuing services staff were highlighted. These recommendations will be reviewed by the DCFS executive team and, based on its final decisions, trainings on reunification and case-closure practice will begin in late 2020, after staff complete the safety and risk foundational trainings.

Use of Public Health Nurses (PHNs) in Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare PHN (CWPHN) Steering Committee continues to meet and 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*](#)¹⁰ (December 2017).

¹⁰ [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports and Communication/Public Health Nurses in Child Welfare/01 Fourth 90-Day Report Best Use of PHNs \(12-08-2017\).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083842-860](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Reports%20and%20Communication/Public%20Health%20Nurses%20in%20Child%20Welfare/01%20Fourth%2090-Day%20Report%20Best%20Use%20of%20PHNs%20(12-08-2017).pdf.pdf?ver=2018-10-24-083842-860)

- ✧ The Governor's budget included \$8.3 million for FY 2020-21 for the Public Health Nurse Early Intervention Program. This program will ensure CWPHNs are involved early on when children with special health care needs (e.g., two or more diagnosis and/or ongoing chronic conditions) are referred to DCFS for a child abuse investigation, and will allow for continuing services, when applicable. These funds had been included in the FY 2019-20 Governor's budget, but they were never distributed.
- ✧ Efforts occurring since the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - DPH's Probation CWPHNs were assigned to support each Probation Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) facility and help them properly prepare for COVID-19. This support was so useful that they requested similar assistance for the DCFS approved STRTPs. DPH nurse managers have made themselves available to consult with these facilities until assignments can be put in place.
 - The CWPHN Coronavirus Warmline launched in April to support the needs of DCFS and Probation families, clients, employees, and facility staff during afterhours, weekends and holidays. A total of 551 non-duplicated COVID-19 related initial PHN consultations were logged between mid-April and July 24, 2020. Over 90% of the consultations were for children in foster care (the rest were for children in at-home placements). Forty-three percent of the questions were from group home/STRTP staff, 23% were from children's social workers and deputy probation officers, and 20% were from youth and parents/care givers. The interventions provided by the PHNs included sharing COVID-19 information and resources (84%), referring children to a primary care physician (52%), and making referrals to the DHS medical hubs, DPH Provider line, or 211 (28%).

Electronic Data-Sharing Efforts

- Working with DCFS, the CIO, and County Counsel on a web-based portal to facilitate the electronic sharing of information relevant to investigations of child abuse or neglect across 7 County departments and DCFS, based on an MOU that the OCP finalized with 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. Data accessible in this initial phase of ERIS includes family members' DCFS history and criminal-background information, which helps streamline DCFS investigations and placing children with relatives when a removal is necessary.
 - ✧ Phase II of ERIS is being developed by the Internal Services Department, the OCP, DCFS, and the CIO, adding data from other departments and incorporating changes based on user feedback to improve system functioning.

- ✧ Final user-testing sessions with emergency-response workers and supervisors are scheduled for early August to ensure that the system functions properly.
- ✧ A web-based training is being finalized to train all users on the new features and data within the system.
- 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.
 - ✧ Prepared the project for piloting in three DCFS regional offices and one Medical Hub
 - Drafted LANES procedures for PHNs and an informational guide about LANES for children's social workers (CSWs), which will be modified and then finalized in response to the pilot experience
 - Developed criteria for a streamlined, printable patient summary for introduction during the pilot
 - Customized training and survey materials for PHN users
 - Developed plans for ongoing engagement with the LANES team
 - Working with the PHNs' union to negotiate terms
- The Education Coordinating Council (ECC), which functions under the OCP umbrella, has also made significant progress toward greater access to accurate and consistent education data for foster youth.
 - ✧ On July 30, 2020, LACOE and DCFS launched a web-based Education Passport System (EPS) mobile app for CSWs to have access to foster youth education data in the field on their smartphones.
 - OCP, DCFS, and LACOE are developing a School-Stability Transportation module in EPS to track school-of-origin transportation process indicators; it is planned for launch in October 2020.
 - Between April and July 2020, LACOE trained 96 staff from 21 school districts on EPS. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, LACOE provides custom trainings to districts while staff are telecommuting.
 - Between April and July 2020, school-district staff initiated 13,728 document searches in EPS, plus 5,137 student searches.

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

- The Upfront Family-Finding project continues in 10 DCFS offices: Belvedere, West Los Angeles, West San Fernando Valley, Santa Fe Springs, Glendora, Vermont Corridor, Santa Clarita, Wateridge, Hawthorne, and Lakewood.
 - ✧ From January 2020 through the end of June, 2,221 children have been the subject of detention hearings in those offices; 81% of those children were placed with kin, a number consistent with previous progress updates.
 - ✧ The Child Trends longitudinal study of the project continues to evaluate the impact of the project on placement stability, family reunification, permanency, and more.
 - ✧ Conversations with DCFS need to begin on expanding this project to the remaining DCFS offices.

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

- On September 4, 2019, the OCP submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors, [*Increasing Stability and Permanency for Transition-Age Youth*](#),¹¹ which contained recommendations from the OCP Permanency Workgroup on data, family reunification, DCFS's Youth Permanency Units, and the Dave Thomas Foundation's foster-child adoption project, "Wendy's Wonderful Kids," plus a draft analysis of programs and benefits available to eligible youth.
 - ✧ The OCP Permanency Workgroup continues to meet monthly. DCFS provided the following data as of July 1, 2020:
 - 3,094 children have been freed with a plan of adoption and are awaiting adoption finalization (a slight increase over the March numbers)
 - 1,252 of the children awaiting finalization have been waiting more than 6 months, a significant increase from March
 - At least 90 children have been legally freed and are *not* in a plan of adoption. DCFS, CLC and others will more closely analyze those cases in hopes of developing permanency for those children.
 - As of July 6, 2020, 2,156 cases in the Dependency Court for 90 days or longer have not reached disposition, a significant increase (from 920 on March 25) resulting from court closures because of the COVID-19 virus.

¹¹ [http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Permanency/Office of Child Protection \(OCP\) Stability and Permanency for TAY Report 09-04-2019 \(with attachments\).pdf?ver=2019-10-28-090046-917](http://ocp.lacounty.gov/Portals/OCP/PDF/Permanency/Office%20of%20Child%20Protection%20(OCP)%20Stability%20and%20Permanency%20for%20TAY%20Report%2009-04-2019%20(with%20attachments).pdf?ver=2019-10-28-090046-917)

- The Workgroup will continue to monitor this data monthly and discuss ways to reduce the high numbers, work that dovetails with the Board of Supervisors' motion on court technology during COVID-19 dated June 9, 2020.
- ✧ The Juvenile Court recently announced a process for virtual and “non-appearance” adoptions that the Workgroup is monitoring with the help of DCFS, the Alliance for Children's Rights, and Public Counsel. Additionally, a virtual National Adoption Day has been announced for Saturday, November 21, 2020; details are currently being worked out. The Workgroup also discussed the possibility of a virtual Reunification Day, and those conversations will continue.
- ✧ The benefits charts created by OCP and the Workgroup are currently under review by stakeholders with a report due on their progress next month.
- ✧ The Workgroup recently reviewed the Presidential Executive Order on Strengthening the Child Welfare System for America's Children and agreed that the order's substance is consistent with our system's desire to enhance permanency for children as well as reduce the number of youth transitioning out of the system because of their age. It was also noted that current administration policies discriminate against same-sex couples, LGBTQ+ youth, and people who do not practice the same faith as government-funded faith-based agencies.

Transitional Shelter Care (TSC) Pilot

- Bi-weekly meetings continue with stakeholders—including DCFS, DMH, Probation, the Juvenile Court, the Children's Law Center, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), County Counsel, and others—to discuss the multidisciplinary teaming pilot led by DCFS' Accelerated Placement Team (APT), along with DMH, to stabilize and find permanency for hard-to-place youth (overstays and chronic repeaters) at 10-day Temporary Shelter Care Facilities (TSCFs). The APT has named the special social workers staffing this effort “the OCP unit.”
- ✧ Most recently, the APT has had to deal with lockdowns of TSCF facilities resulting from COVID-19 outbreaks, but has nonetheless kept the number of children and youth in these facilities at a manageable level. OCP pilot staff have also been able to continue their high-intensity work with youth on their caseloads. Bi-weekly stakeholder meetings monitor several of these youth and discuss challenges and suggestions on how to better serve them and other youth brought to the attention of the group. Most recently, the group has begun to brainstorm on how to use the lessons learned from this work to benefit more children throughout DCFS' regional offices.

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

Efforts to Improve School Stability

- Continuing to partner with DCFS, Los Angeles County school districts, and LACOE to implement the foster-youth school-stability provisions included in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
 - ✧ The Education Coordinating Council (ECC), DCFS, LACOE, LAUSD, and WDACS conducted a transportation pilot to keep foster youth in their schools of origin when that is in their best interest. The two-year pilot, completed on July 30, 2019, served as a “bridge solution” and learning opportunity while long-term transportation agreements between DCFS and the school districts were finalized.
 - To date, 33 school districts have signed the long-term MOU—Alhambra Unified, Antelope Valley Unified, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Charter Oak, Claremont, Compton, Culver City, Duarte, El Monte City, El Monte Union High School District, El Rancho Unified, Glendale Unified, Inglewood, Lancaster, Los Angeles Unified School District (which serves approximately 40% of the County’s foster youth), Monrovia, Montebello, Mountain View Elementary, Norwalk La Mirada, Palmdale, Paramount, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Marino, South Pasadena, South Whittier, Torrance, Walnut Valley, Westside, Whittier Union High School District, and William S. Hart.
 - The ECC is engaging with several other districts to facilitate additional agreements—Azusa (the MOU is on its school-board agenda for July 2020), Bonita, Long Beach, West Covina, Wilsona, and Wiseburn.
 - The 33 districts whose boards have signed the MOU serve approximately 72% of the County’s foster youth. DCFS continues to provide monthly updates to the Board of Supervisors on additional districts signing on.
 - The ECC secured an additional \$25,000 in philanthropic funds from the California Community Foundation for the ESSA Outreach Coordinator, Maria Casillas, who will continue to reach out to districts, help support them in securing school-of-origin transportation funds for FY 2020–2021, and advocate with the state regarding the importance of providing sustainable support for this unfunded mandate.
 - ✧ The ECC is working with DCFS and LACOE to strengthen processes around the notice, best-interest determination, and long-term method-of-transportation discussion processes.
 - LACOE, DCFS, and OCP are developing a School-Stability Transportation module in the Education Passport System (EPS) to help track school-of-origin transportation process indicators. DCFS, LACOE, and the OCP developed a

- one-pager of “tool tips” to provide guidance to school-district staff as they enter data into the module.
- LACOE, OCP, and DCFS are working to develop a virtual cross-training between school-district Foster Youth Liaisons and DCFS Education Specialists on school-stability transportation, including the best-interest determination process. The training is anticipated to be implemented by September 2020.
 - The DCFS education team has developed and implemented a school-stability training for social workers at 19 DCFS regional offices.
- Working with John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) and relevant County departments to facilitate enhanced support for post-secondary educational attainment for youth in the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems, and to implement SB 12 provisions
 - ✧ DCFS, Probation, and LACOE participated in 2019–2020’s California Foster Youth FAFSA® Challenge (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), designed to increase system-involved youths’ access to financial aid for college by increasing FAFSA completion rates.
 - As a result of COVID-19, DCFS, Probation, LACOE, and WDACS worked with JBAY and the ECC to develop creative solutions for reaching out to system-involved youth to provide support with completing the FAFSA virtually. DCFS walked through the process with youth over the telephone and referred them to JBAY’s online resource guides and webinar for step-by-step assistance.
 - The goal for Los Angeles County’s 2019–2020’s FAFSA Challenge was to achieve a completion rate of 65% for eligible system-involved youth. At the Challenge’s conclusion, Los Angeles County had achieved a 68% completion rate for the FAFSA and a 40% completion rate for the Chafee Grant application—surpassing its 65% goal, increasing system-involved youths’ rate of completion by 7% compared to last year, and exceeding the rate of FAFSA completion by the eligible general population.
 - ✧ Partners updated the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) form to address education planning and account for new SB 12 requirements. The updated TILP form was submitted to DCFS and is currently awaiting approval.

School-Based Healing-Informed Arts Education

- Working with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture and DMH to implement a healing-informed arts education pilot for middle and high schools with high numbers of foster and probation youth. The program will help youth build protective factors through the arts and will develop local art-focused networks of mental-health clinicians, artists, teachers, and other stakeholders within schools and their surrounding communities.

- ✧ Because of school closures during COVID-19, Arts and Culture, DMH, and the ECC have pivoted programming to online platforms.
 - In June 2020, implemented a series of 8 drop-in virtual workshops for educators led by members of the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN). Offering engagement in healing-informed art practices to build connections, bolster protective factors, and foster community care, workshops were provided for staff at Antelope Valley Union High School District, LAUSD, Pasadena Unified, and Pomona Unified.
 - In June 2020, implemented “creative well-being” professional-development training via virtual workshops for 150 Pasadena Unified secondary teachers (grades 6–12) and Department of Arts and Culture district arts coordinators. Staff were provided with healing-informed arts assignments to explore key themes, including protective and risk factors, bio-psycho-social mapping, and knowing the five signs of emotional suffering and the five healthy habits of emotional well-being.
 - AIYN member organization *Tía Chucha’s Centro Cultural* offered a bilingual series of 7 drop-in virtual workshops for parents, led by Palabras y Pan, to tap into their creativity, engage in artistic and creative practices, and gain tools for self-care.
- ✧ AIYN member organizations provided healing-informed arts instruction and art supplies to foster youth at congregate-care sites including Hillside Education Center, Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, and Trinity Youth Services.
- ✧ Worked with the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory’s (BHAC’s) *Por Vida* Youth Media Collective to develop radio public service announcements (PSAs) to provide virtual healing-informed arts instructions, as many families have barriers accessing wi-fi. Youth researched, wrote, recorded, and edited the PSAs, which will run for 60-days on KQBH 101.5 and over <https://www.lpfm.la/>, BHAC’s community radio station.
- ✧ The ECC secured \$10,000 in philanthropic funds in July 2020 from the Conrad Hilton Foundation for an additional 12 drop-in virtual workshops, led by AIYN members, providing self-care and strategies for educators to implement in classrooms. Workshops are offered by the Actors Gang on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. between July 13 and August 31, and by Bold Ink Writers on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. between July 8 and August 26. Registration is available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creative-wellbeing-teacher-space-tickets-110891188530>.

County Medical Hubs

- Working with DHS, DCFS, DMH, and DPH to implement a detailed workplan to improve the overall Hub system, focusing on timely access to forensic exams and initial medical exams (IMEs) in the short term (Phase I) and potentially broadening Hub services in the longer term (Phase II). Examples of recent improvements include:
 - ✧ DCFS, DPH, DHS, and DMH continue to implement a number of strategies to ensure that DCFS youth and families are supported during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - DHS and DCFS have implemented a 24/7 telephone warmline, staffed by medical professionals from the LAC+USC Medical Center, to answer COVID-19–related questions from DCFS social workers, resource parents, Short-Term Residential Treatment Program providers, foster family agencies, and other caregivers. DPH has also made a warmline and resource public health nurse available 24/7 to answer COVID-19-related questions from DCFS social workers. DMH’s ACCESS hotline is available to the community 24/7 for emotional support and/or resources.
 - The Hub clinics continue to prioritize certain core services—forensic evaluations, initial medical exams (IME) for newly detained children, and well-check visits for babies in need of vaccinations—for in-person visits, as well as offering telehealth visits for other continuity-of-care visits and/or mental health screenings and triages.
 - DHS facilities can provide COVID-19 testing (with an estimated 36-hour turnaround) prior to placement, if needed, for youth entering congregate-care facilities, and may also admit a limited number of youth for short-term placement in DHS hospitals, regardless of medical acuity, while they await test results.
 - DPH, DCFS, and DHS are working to clarify policy and guidance on COVID-19 testing for DCFS congregate-care facilities, and have created a point-of-contact/workflow document for testing and outbreak-related questions and issues. DPH’s Child Welfare Public Health Nursing unit managers also serve as liaisons to DCFS facilities to answer COVID-19–related questions and provide technical assistance on best practices related to isolation/quarantining, stable cohorts, etc.
 - DCFS and DPH are working with the CEO and others to ensure that DCFS social workers have access to proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for their in-person contact with families, including supplies of face masks for families who may not have their own.
 - ✧ Despite workload impacts and delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the countywide hiring freeze, DCFS, DHS, DMH, and DPH continue to make progress in filling Hub staff positions that were added in fall 2019 to support core

services and extended clinic hours. The table below reflects each department's hiring status at specific Hubs.

DHS Medical Hub	DCFS*	DHS	DMH	DPH
MLK	Hired 1 staff for extended hours	Hired 1 Physician Specialist, 1 Nurse Practitioner (NP), and 1 Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN); 2 new Physician Specialists to start soon; current Hub psychologist has been transferred to the correct Psychologist item; PAR for the Staff Assistant II has been held up in the hiring freeze; MLK will hire the other new staff (2 NPs, 1 Registered Nurse (RN), 4 LVNs, 1 Intermediate Typist Clerk (ITC), 1 PRW (Patient Resources Worker)) when close to moving to new building.	Hired 1 Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) for extended hours and 1 Medical Case Worker (MCW)	1 PHN hired; recruiting for ITC position
LAC+USC	Hired 1 staff for after-hours	Hired 1 NP; Recruiting/interviewing 2 Registered Nurse (RN) IIs	N/A (mental health services provided by contractor)	1 PHN hired; recruiting for ITC position
East San Gabriel Valley (ESGV)	No new positions added	Hired 1 NP; 1 Senior Physician Specialist transferred to ESGV from HDRHC Hub; additional Physician Specialist identified; Recruiting/interviewing 1 RN II, 3 LVNs; started PAR for one MCW II; 1 ITC candidate identified but impacted due to hiring freeze. <i>Extended evening hours will be implemented when more staff hired and onboarded.</i>	N/A (mental health services provided by contractor)	Recruiting for ITC position
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (HUMC)	No new positions added	Hired all positions	Hired 1 MCW	Recruiting for ITC position

DHS Medical Hub	DCFS*	DHS	DMH	DPH
Olive View Medical Center (OVMC)	No new positions added	Hired 2 Physician Specialists, 1 Nurse Practitioner NP who is transferring from HDRHC General Pediatrics and is transitioning fully to Hub over next 2 months; one more NP provider identified but need to wait a bit (space resources); all nursing items hired; ITC hired; Staff Assistant item on hold due to budget freeze	Hired 2 PSWs for afterhours and 1 MCW	Recruiting for ITC position
HDRHC	Hired 1 staff for extended hours	Hired 1 NP, 1 part-time MD, 1 clerk, and 1 evening PRW; Recruiting/interviewing for: Medical Director, RN I, and RN II positions	Hired 1 Clinical Supervisor, 1 PSW, and 1 MCW	1 ITC hired

*DCFS has also hired two supervisors for the co-located social workers at the Hubs.

- ✧ The High Desert Regional Health Center (HDRHC) Hub implemented its extended weekday clinic hours—8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.—on June 1, 2020, as well as a number of process improvements: redefined support-staff roles to streamline scheduling and to offer more patient- and family-centered support and care coordination; re-established routine meetings between Hub leadership and clinic subgroups and community organizations; clarified Hub policies to improve efficiencies related to provider call-out notifications, visitor policies, appointment cancellation/rescheduling, COVID-19 testing for the Hub population, and use of urgent-care services for DCFS-involved children needing medical clearances; and implemented access to on-call Hub pediatricians 24/7 for urgent-care and pediatric providers.
- ✧ DCFS, DMH, DHS, and OCP have finalized a caregiver informational flyer in English and Spanish on the Medical Hubs that includes an overview of services, helpful tips, and Hub contact information. DCFS is putting this updated flyer into caregiver placement packets.
- ✧ DCFS, DHS, and OCP have finalized a decision tree/workflow flyer for CSWs on when and how to make referrals to the Medical Hubs for core services like forensic evaluations, medical clearances, CSEC (commercially sexually exploited children) exams and clearances, and IMEs; and with whom to communicate within DCFS and at each Hub if concerns arise around the disposition and/or timing of the Hub exam. DCFS is disseminating this workflow document to its staff as well as sharing on its intranet as an electronic resource for CSWs.
- ✧ DCFS, DHS, DPH, and OCP are updating the local IME policy for newly detained children under age 3 and/or at high risk, which requires an IME within 10 days of detention, to align it with current state regulations requiring youth newly placed in

out-of-home care to receive an IME within 30 days of detention. The longer period would allow caregivers more time with the child to better understand and communicate the child's medical history and needs at the IME appointment, and would give child-welfare public health nurses, working with the CSW, more time to obtain necessary birth and medical records for children under age 3 in advance of the IME.

Dental Screenings and Exams

- Working with DCFS, DPH, DHS, and UCLA to develop a plan for increasing the number of foster youth receiving dental screenings and exams, when needed, within policy timeframes.
 - ✧ Working with the UCLA Dental Transformation Initiative, DCFS, and DPH's Oral Health Program to analyze Medi-Cal foster-youth dental-service utilization data from FYs 2012–2013 through 2016–2017, including a breakdown of dental exam and preventive dental exam service usage by age group and Service Planning Area (SPA). Once complete, the analysis and recommendations for improving dental-service access will be shared.

Mental Health Coordination

- Working with DCFS and DMH to implement an independent process evaluation of the Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) and the overall front-end assessment process to help inform how mental health processes can be streamlined for DCFS-involved youth. DCFS and DMH are jointly funding the evaluation, and the OCP is managing the independent contractor, the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), implementing the evaluation; we anticipate a complete report by mid-2021. Efforts to date include:
 - ✧ Worked with DMH and MAT providers to develop the most efficient and secure methods for transmitting data to the MAT evaluators. This included joining MAT provider quality-assurance staff during their May meeting and surveying them about which data-transmission method would work best for each. CIBHS will also provide technical assistance to MAT providers to help transmit data as needed.
 - ✧ CIBHS has finalized a crosswalk and crosswalk narrative of the main evidence-based front-end assessments, screenings, and tools used in Los Angeles County, to help DCFS, DMH, and OCP determine where duplication may exist in the front-end assessment process and recommend streamlined processes. The evaluator is also working on a draft crosswalk of discretionary assessments, screenings, and tools that providers use during the front-end process.
 - ✧ The OCP has begun the process of noticing youth and parents of youth who may be a part of the evaluation sample. A notice form was drafted and incorporated feedback from advocates, including the Children's Law Center and the National Center for Youth Law, to ensure that the form is youth-friendly. Data analysis from the evaluation will begin this fall.

Addressing Psychotropic Medication Use in Child Welfare

- Monthly meetings of the Psychotropic Medication Workgroup continue. The workgroup has been overseeing the implementation of all protocols related to the use of psychotropic medications for youth in out-of-home care in both the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems.
- ✧ Quarterly updates of psychotropic medication data have been received from DCFS and Probation.
 - DCFS data as of July 10, 2020, indicate that:
 - 1,591 children are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 8.17% of all Los Angeles County foster children
 - 333 foster children are being administered antipsychotic medications, which is 20.93% of foster children on medications
 - 786 foster children are being administered two or more medications, which is 49.40% of Los Angeles County foster children on medications
 - Probation data as of June 30, 2020, indicate that:
 - 30 youth who are suitably placed are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 6% of those in suitable placement
 - 5 youth in suitable placement are being administered antipsychotic medication, which is less than 1% of suitably placed youth
 - 16 youth in suitable placement are being administered more than one psychotropic medication, which is 3% of suitably placed youth
 - 30 of 52 youth placed at Dorothy Kirby Center are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 57.69% of youth at that location
 - 128 of 277 youth in juvenile halls are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 46.20% of that population
 - 77 of 166 youth in probation camps are being administered psychotropic medications, which is 46.39% of that population
- ✧ The Psychotropic Medication Youth Engagement Worksheet (YEW) is being utilized in increasing numbers in both systems each month. Parties in both systems are seeing the forms with increased frequency and have indicated that they provide valuable information.
- ✧ The DPH PHNs have also began distributing a form to prescribing physicians to ensure that necessary lab tests have been conducted on youth who are being administered psychotropic medications. While implementation has started, it is still a work in progress, which, among other things, will require more notice to

and education of prescribing physicians to ensure they respond to these requests for information.

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. The work on this motion continues with monthly meetings of the Dual-Status Youth Workgroup's two subcommittees—Delinquency Prevention and WIC 241.1 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).
 - ✧ The Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee led by Professor Denise Herz of California State University Los Angeles has drafted a comprehensive report and recommendations on delinquency prevention throughout both the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems. The subcommittee is currently reviewing the report and continues to meet to flesh out these recommendations with additional subject-matter experts.
 - ✧ A complete draft of the updated WIC 241.1 protocol was distributed to stakeholders in December 2019. Comments were received and incorporated, and the draft was submitted in February to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for review. The workgroup is currently waiting to hear back from the court.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth

- In the recently released evaluation [Commercially Sexually Exploited Girls and Young Women Involved in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in Los Angeles County: An Exploration and Evaluation of Placement Experiences and Services Received](#),¹² two recommendations out of a total of eight were identified as short-term fixes that would help improve CSEC placement stability.

The first recommendation was to ensure that all service providers are properly trained on issues facing CSEC, such as non-judgmental communication skills, trauma and mental health, and recognizing signs of AWOL. The second supports a youth preference for placements in the most homelike environment possible, and the finding that CSEC placed in foster-family agency homes stayed significantly longer in those placements if specialized services were also provided to them.

- ✧ DCFS, Probation, and the OCP have created a planning workgroup to focus on these two CSEC recommendations.

¹² https://youthlaw.org/publication/csec_la_childwelfare_juvenilejustice/

- The existing CSEC training contract held by Probation will expire at the end of February 2021. A new statement of work for a CSEC trainer has been completed and is being vetted by the planning workgroup; a new contract should be in place by January 2021.
- The statement of work for Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) homes targeting CSEC has been completed and is being vetted by the planning workgroup as a potential pilot project.

Additional OCP Activities

- Participate on the June 9 Board motion COVID-19 court technology workgroup
- Participate on DCFS' and LACOE's partnership workgroup to ensure child safety during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Participate on the advisory board for DCFS's Invest LA initiative
- Partner with DCFS to co-lead its Invest LA community and cross-sector partnerships investment area team
- Participate on DCFS' leadership, advisory, and identification of evidence-based practices teams for the Family First Prevention Services Act plan development
- Participate in the steering committee to establish a family treatment court in Los Angeles
- Participate on DCFS' Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD) workgroup
- Participate on the Project ABC Governance Board on serving young children and their families
- Participate in the Youth Justice Work Group that is developing recommendations for the most effective structure needed to best serve probation youth
- Participate on DPH's Office of Violence Prevention Leadership Committee
- Participate on the CIO's Business Management Committee and on its Information Management Committee for Countywide data-sharing
- Participated in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) virtual annual conference
- Participated in two trainings on Medication Assisted Treatment for substance abuse
- Participated in an American Bar Association webinar on legal representation in Dependency Court

- The “Moving Families from the Hotline to a Helpline” collaborative project won an award, and a “Best in Category” distinction, from the National Association of Counties in May 2020.
- Connected with state partners from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention about the implementation of our Countywide Prevention Plan
- Moderated the “Portrait of Los Angeles County” panel discussion for the 2020 American Society for Public Administration virtual conference
- In partnership with DCFS, drafted language for a proof-of-concept submission to the United States Children’s Bureau, Casey Family Programs, and Prevent Child Abuse America on creating a child and family well-being system in Los Angeles County.

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.

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.

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Attachment

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Children and Family Services
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