

LOS ANGELES COUNTY



**DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**2015-2016
DCFS BIENNIAL REPORT**



Child Safety is Job One!



County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services



1984 to 2016
32 Years of Keeping Children Safe!

Vision:

Children thrive in safe families and supportive communities.

Mission:

DCFS will practice a uniform service delivery model that measurably improves:

- Child safety
- Permanency
- Access to effective and caring services

Values:

Cultural Sensitivity: We acknowledge, respect, value and understand the importance of cultural diversity in all aspects of child welfare practice.

Leadership: We engage, motivate and inspire others to collaboratively achieve common goals through example, vision and commitment.

Accountability: We accept responsibility for our actions, behavior and results.

Integrity: We are honest, forthcoming and transparent, always acting in accordance with the highest ethical standards and values.

Responsiveness: We take needed action in a timely manner.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

With more than 10 million residents, covering an area over 4,000 square miles, Los Angeles County is the largest and most populous county in the United States. Each day our social workers travel from one end of the county to the other, helping to ensure that the 2.3 million children remain safe within their homes. This task is enormous, as evidenced by over 200,000 calls made annually to our Child Protection Hotline reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is the largest child protective services agency in the nation, handling 150,000 child safety investigations involving 90,000 families each year. To put this in perspective, consider that in the last seven years, DCFS has investigated over one million referrals of suspected abuse or neglect.

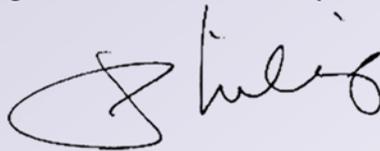
DCFS has made significant advancements, particularly in the areas of technology and the implementation of the Core Practice Model and in our overall outcomes for the children and families we serve. The Department has grown from a budget of \$1.8 billion three years ago to a budget of \$2.2 billion in 2016, with an increase in overall budgeted positions from 6,900 in 2013 to a historic high of 8,800 in 2016. The hiring of over 1,900 social workers has resulted in significantly lower caseloads.

A 52-week training program and cutting-edge simulation labs prepare our workers for what they will encounter in the field, but ultimately, they must rely on good common sense, critical thinking, and their own assessment skills in determining which children can safely remain in their homes. The Core Practice Model is a client-centered strategy which helps us partner with our families to identify their underlying needs and create a plan for safe reunification. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of our Department is the heartfelt compassion displayed by our social workers and every member of our DCFS staff who regularly go to great lengths to keep a child safe.

Our success would have not been possible without the support of the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Office, the Commission of Children and Families, the Office of Child Protection, and our strong partners at the Service Employee International Union (SEIU), and the philanthropic community including Casey Family Programs, among others. I appreciate your commitment and I thank them for their unwavering support.

I want to make particular mention of the support that Supervisor Knabe and Supervisor Antonovich have bestowed upon children and families throughout their entire careers. As they prepare to leave office, I wish them the best in their new endeavors and look forward to working with the two new Supervisors and their staff towards our goal of protecting children and families.

Director Philip Browning welcoming newly hired social workers.



DCFS EXECUTIVE TEAM



Philip L. Browning, Director



Diane Iglesias
Senior Deputy Director
Government Accountability & Risk Management



Brandon Nichols
Chief Deputy Director



Cynthia McCoy-Miller
Senior Deputy Director
Mega Bureau



Helen Berberian
Deputy Director
Clinical Resources & Services



Maryam Fatemi
Deputy Director
Service Bureau 1



Eric Marts
Deputy Director
Contract Services



Roberta Medina
Deputy Director
Specialized Response



Kym Renner
Deputy Director
Administrative Support



Karen Richardson
Deputy Director
Juvenile Court & Adoption



Dr. Charles Sophy
Medical Director
Clinical Resources & Services



Rogelio Tapia
Deputy Director
Finance and Administration



Dawna Yokoyama
Deputy Director
Service Bureau 2



Madeline Roachell
Assistant Deputy Director
Operational Support Services



Deanne Tilton
Executive Director
Inter-agency Council
on Child Abuse & Neglect



Evangelina Reina
Executive Assistant



Armand Montiel
Public Affairs Director

DCFS 2015/2016 FAST FACTS

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$2.2 Billion

EMPLOYEE COUNT:

Budgeted Positions : 8,800

Children's Social Workers : 4,000

Supervising Children's Social Workers : 800

NUMBER OF ANNUAL CALLS MADE TO THE CHILD PROTECTION HOTLINE:

Over 200,000 calls

NUMBER OF ANNUAL CHILD SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS: 150,000

- The Multi-Agency Response Team responded to over 1,200 specialized law enforcement operations, rescuing 1,000 children from volatile criminal home environments
- 10,000 judicial warrants were granted to remove children from unsafe home environments

NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING CONTINUING SERVICES (MONTHLY):

35,000, with 12,000 receiving services while remaining safely in the home of their parents

OF THE 18,000 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE:

- 9,500 are living with their relatives and extended family members
- 6,500 are living in non-relative foster homes
- 1,000 are living in group homes
- 1,000 young adults (prior to the age of 21) are in supervised independent living homes

NUMBER OF ANNUAL DEPENDENCY COURT HEARINGS: Over 100,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SAFELY REUNIFIED WITH BIRTH PARENTS ANNUALLY: 5,100

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ANNUALLY RECEIVE A FOREVER HOME THROUGH ADOPTION: Over 1,400



DCFS PROGRESS

- Successfully operated a complex Department with a budget of over \$2 billion and 8,800 staff members serving about 35,000 children daily—the largest locally administered child welfare program in America.
- Began implementation of a Department-wide organization cultural change from a case management model to the Core Practice Model, which is an intensive partnership with families.
- Implemented the new Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) program with a total of \$21 million in additional assistance paid out to relative foster parents since inception (January 2015 – August 2016).
- Automated the DCFS Policy Manual and established a mobile app which can be accessed in the field saving time for workers reviewing policy and practice procedures.
- Established the DCFS Foster Care Search Engine System mobile app which allows foster home placement requests to be viewed, confirmed or cancelled from a mobile smart phone.
- Coordinated with the Juvenile Court to develop a dedicated Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) courtroom to provide a trauma-informed, multi-disciplinary approach to serving CSEC youth.
- Designed and opened the DCFS University, a 25,000 square-foot training center in a state-of-the-art facility with simulation labs, classrooms and computer labs to train our staff.
- Certified over 1,000 regional staff members as Child and Family Team facilitators, coaches and coach developers to implement the new Core Practice Model.
- Implemented the Student Information Tracking System (an electronic database) totaling 21 school districts and tracking the progress of over 10,000 foster care students.
- Implemented the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications Tracking System, a web-based application which tracks criminal clearance requests to the Department of Justice (DOJ) which has resulted in DOJ results being received within an average of 30-minutes, allowing for faster child placements in relative and non-related extended family member homes.
- Implemented a new electronic search application which helps locate parents anywhere in the nation.
- Maintained the optimal percentage of foster children receiving mental health screenings at 98%.
- Hired over 2,000 social workers which reduced Emergency Response caseload averages by 26% from 14 cases to 12.9 cases and Continuing Services caseload averages by 22% from 29 to 22.9 cases (6/30/14 – 6/30/16).
- Partnered with the Department of Consumer Affairs and assessed approximately 2,000 foster youth to prevent identity theft.

Emergency Response Services and In-Home and Out-of-Home Caseload*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2010-2015
Total Children Receiving Child Welfare Services	38,781	39,805	40,368	42,149	41,478	39,881	2.8%
Family Maintenance Cases	12,933	14,648	13,945	13,817	13,112	11,937	-7.7%
Family Reunification Cases	9,441	9,053	9,580	11,201	11,141	11,164	18.3%
Permanent Placement Cases	10,515	10,348	9,363	9,008	9,141	8,828	-16.0%
Support Transition Cases±	-	-	1,019	1,521	1,681	1,951	-
Adoption Cases	4,986	4,818	5,173	5,279	5,205	5,000	0.28%

*Data Source: Child Welfare Fact Sheet

±AB12 the law allows youth to voluntarily remain in foster care until age 21 was effective January 1, 2012

Foster Care Resources*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2010-2015
Foster Family Homes**	998	814	540	586	650	723	-27.6%
Foster Family Home - Beds	2,468	2,138	1,652	1,745	1,871	2,009	-18.6%
Foster Family Agency Homes	3,917	3,102	2,979	3,016	3,148	3,163	-19.2%
Foster Family Agency Home - Beds	11,120	8,170	7,521	7,113	7,357	7,038	-36.7%
Small Family Homes**	72	69	62	59	59	55	-23.6%
Small Family Home - Beds	109	98	68	58	57	39	-64.2%
Group Homes	177	176	176	186	178	161	-9.0%
Group Home - Beds	2,460	2,486	2,487	2,446	2,353	2,142	-12.9%

*Data Source: Child Welfare Fact Sheet

**Excluded licensed homes on hold

Children in Out-of-Home Placement*

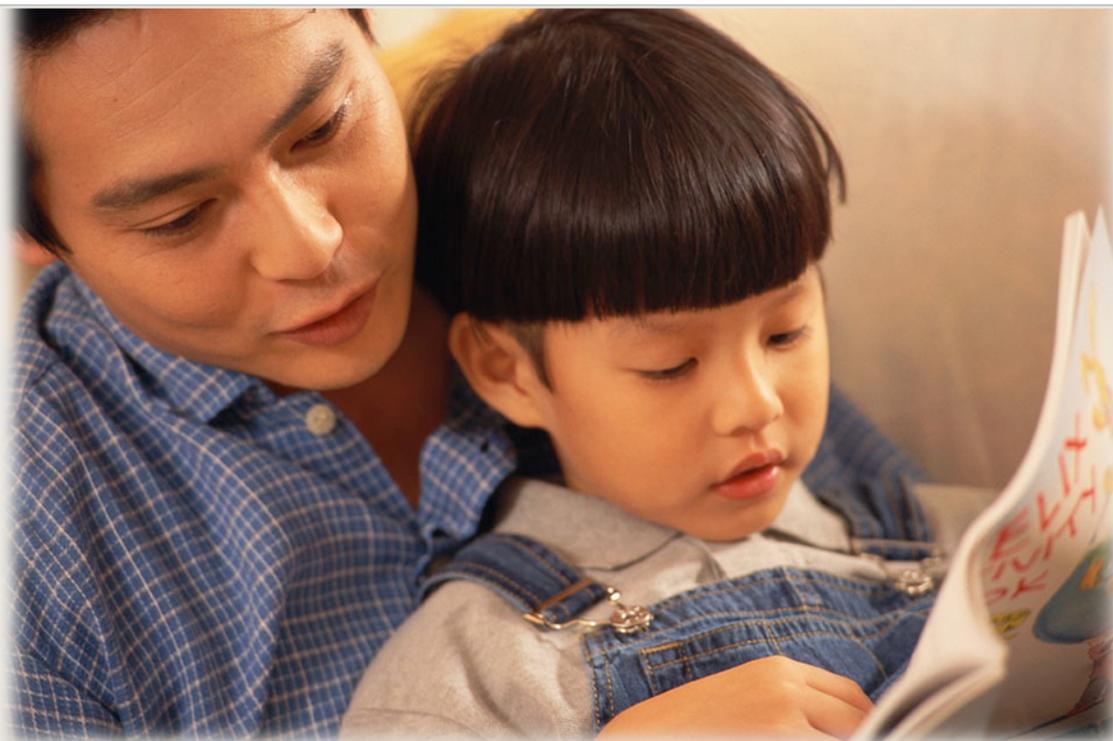
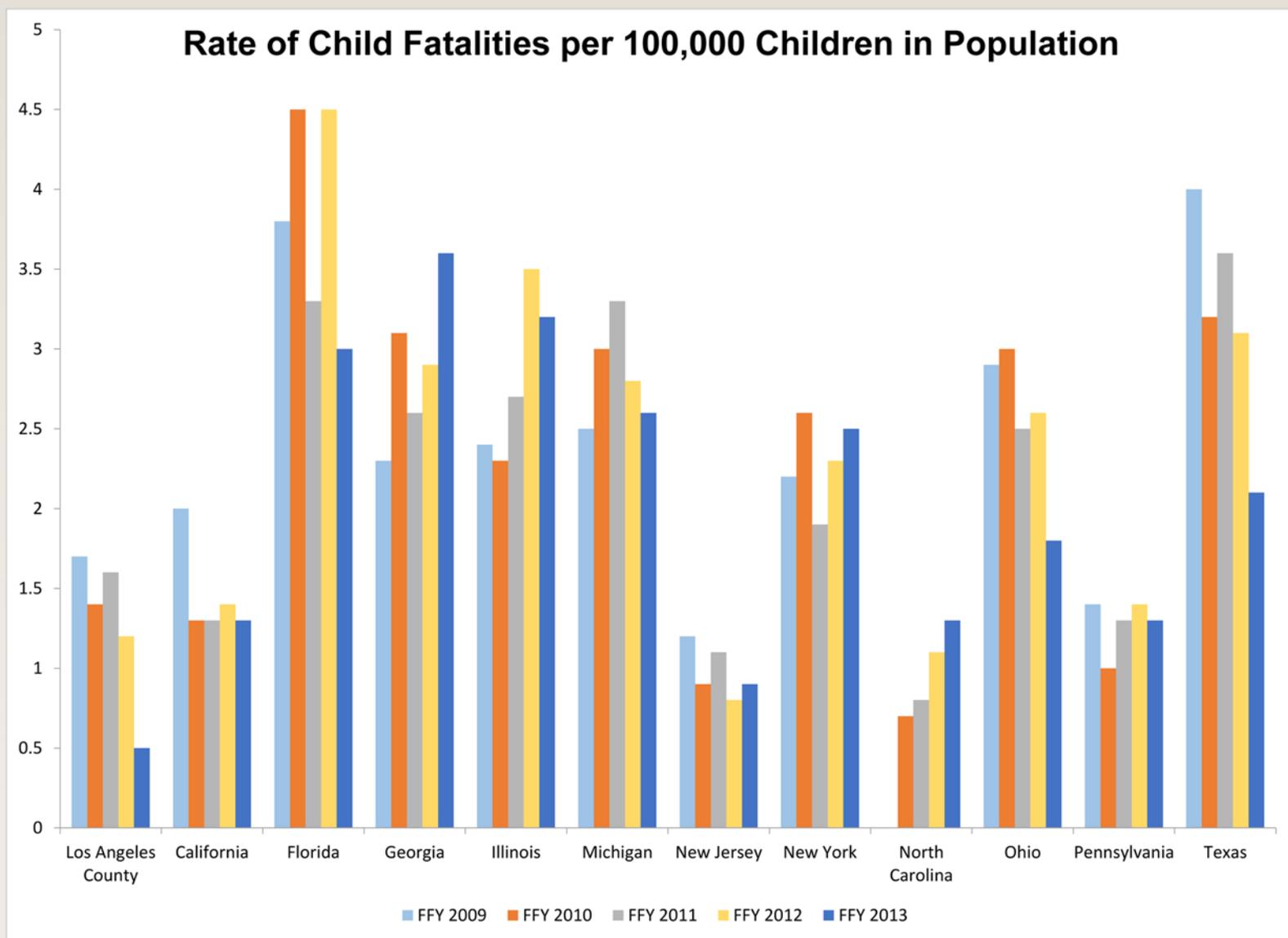
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2010-2015
Relative/Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM)	7,664	7,924	8,479	9,271	9,238	9,446	23.3%
Foster Family Home	1,225	1,173	1,212	1,392	1,402	1,332	8.7%
Foster Family Agency Foster Home	5,632	4,987	4,901	5,108	5,157	5,045	-10.4%
Small Family Home	75	53	37	36	40	34	-54.7%
Group Home	1,011	1,032	1,042	1,084	1,099	1,055	4.4%
Supervised Independent Living±	-	-	234	628	989	1,002	-
Other **	29	35	80	195	55	32	10.3%
Total Out-of-Home Placement	15,636	15,204	15,985	17,714	17,980	17,946	14.8%
Non-Foster Care (NFC) Placement	180	192	187	185	190	172	-4.4%
Adoptive Home - Adoption not Finalized	744	877	768	717	749	830	11.6%
Guardian Home	2,336	2,116	2,114	2,013	1,890	1,753	-25.0%
Total Placements	18,896	18,389	19,054	20,629	20,809	20,701	9.6%

*Data Source: Child Welfare Fact Sheet

**Other - Tribal and Court Specified Homes

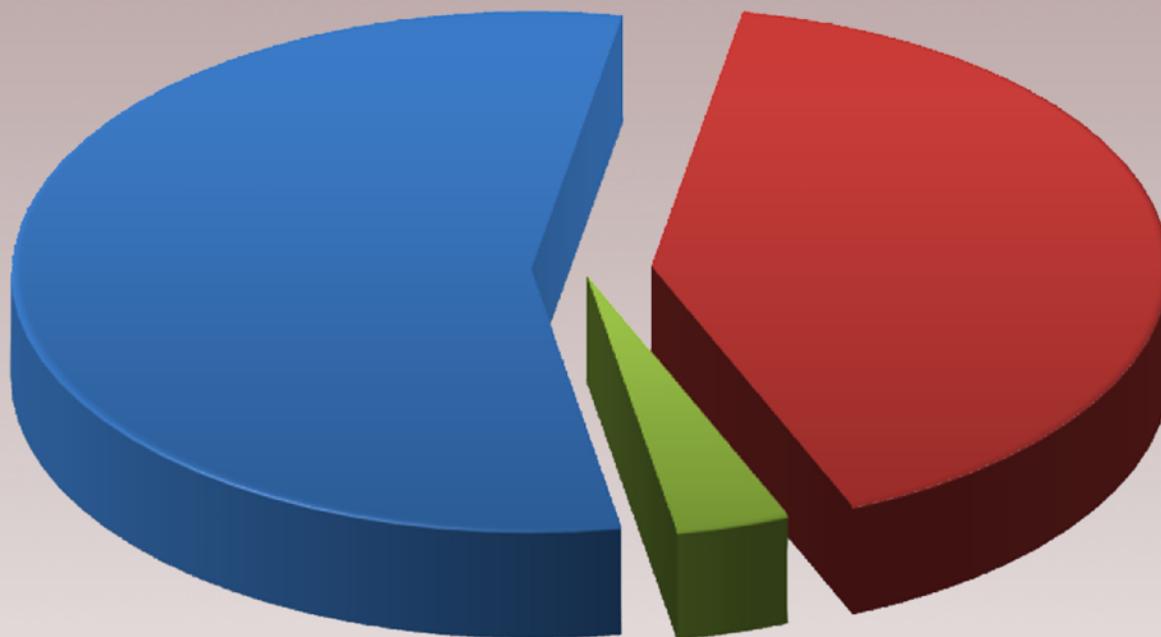
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CHILDREN ARE SAFER IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



BUDGET PRIORITIES

Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016
\$2.2 Billion



DCFS Budget Priorities by Category

 <p>Safety \$1.253 Billion 57.6 %</p>	<p>Katie A. Mental Health Services Staffing positions-Emergency response and Dependency investigator social workers Foster care placements: relative, foster family, foster family agency, and group homes Support/Operations, Legal Counsel, Contracts and Child Care</p>
 <p>Permanency \$846 Million 38.9%</p>	<p>Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-Gap) Program Staffing Positions-Adoptions social workers and Kin-Gap staff Adoption Assistance Support/Operations, Family Preservation Contracts, Contracts</p>
 <p>Well-Being \$76 Million 3.5%</p>	<p>Staffing Positions-social workers and Youth Development staff Client Transportation Contracts Housing Support/Operations Youth Development Services/Independent Living Program</p>

CORE PRACTICE MODEL (CPM)

The Core Practice Model (CPM) prioritizes child safety by enabling stronger teamwork with children and families, grounded in strong community support. The CPM is a deeper way to work with families to improve safety and outcomes for children. The model helps children and families build supportive teams that enable them to identify their strengths and underlying needs in a trusting, positive environment. These insights become the foundation of more effective action plans for change that are tailored specifically to each child and family.

The strategies of this model include:

- Engagement - This is an opportunity to hear the family, build trust, show empathy and honor the family's voice and choice.
- Teaming - Allows for teamwork to occur; shows how formal and informal supports can work together; promotes shared ownership and opportunity for change.
- Assessment and Understanding - Allows for shared identification of underlying needs and strengths; it is responsive to trauma, culture and empowers families.
- Planning and Intervention - Allows for the crafting of tailored services and attention to individual underlying needs.
- Tracking and Adapting - Allows for continuous monitoring of progress, while being thoughtful about the effectiveness of plans; creates an opportunity to make adjustments using team assessments so plans can evolve to achieve long-term goals.

The CPM is a process that is family centered, solution focused, trauma responsive, strength-based, team driven, and improves outcomes for children and families.

On April 28, 2016, the "Get To the Core" CPM communications campaign theme was unveiled. It features a variety of communication tools to both inform and inspire staff about the CPM, including a poster series featuring DCFS and Department of Mental Health staffers, service providers and community partners.

For more information about the CPM, visit www.gettothecore.org.

"It's a lot of work, but the outcome is awesome. It helps us take a step back and really get to know about our families and hear them rather than reading it on paper. Understanding what they need is so helpful with problem solving because the outcomes are so much more effective and successful."

-Supervising Children's Social Worker Theresa Davis,
DCFS Pasadena

"The Core Practice Model puts the family at the center. They choose their team and create their plan, while we ensure safety. Every voice matters-including fathers, who are absolutely essential."

-SCSW Gilbert Salazar, DCFS El Monte

"This was very helpful, everything was... it's just the beginning."

-Youth

AN INVESTMENT IN FAMILIES

"INVESTING TIME IN A CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE. IT FEELS GREAT TO MAKE AN IMPACT. BESIDES, I'D RATHER HAVE A GREAT CFT MEETING TODAY THAN HAVE THE FAMILY COME BACK FOR INTERVENTION IN THE FUTURE"

- Shiquita Crook
Social Worker
- Emergency Response,
Department of Children
and Family Services
- Compton East

GET TO THE CORE
AN EVOLUTION OF PRACTICE
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

GetToTheCore.org

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

Each year, as many as 100,000 children are sold for sex within the United States and as many as 300,000 are at risk of becoming commercially sexually exploited. Such victimization can have devastating effects on a child's physical and mental health and well-being. Los Angeles County is home to over 2.3 million children. Our Department serves 35,000 children with approximately 18,000 placed in out-of-home care. Between January 2015 and January 2016, DCFS received referrals to the Child Protection Hotline involving 882 CSEC youth. Of these referrals, 642 children had an in-person response and 240 children were evaluated out (i.e., these referrals did not warrant an in-person response for a variety of reasons).

In August 2014, the Los Angeles County Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for CSEC was implemented. The Protocol outlines a coordinated response to serve CSEC from the time they are identified through the first 72 hours of contact with County systems. The Protocol created a specific CSEC Expedited Response for calls to the Child Protection Hotline from law enforcement agencies in the pilot area. The Multi-Agency Response Team social workers respond to the scene within 90 minutes and conduct the Emergency Response investigation when a CSEC youth is identified in the designated pilot areas. This occurs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Protocol pioneered the decriminalization of minors arrested for prostitution offenses, it was successfully piloted in Long Beach and Compton, where there had been disproportionately high rates of these incidents. The Protocol has now expanded to the Sheriff's Transit Bureau-LA Basin, and Los Angeles Police Department 77th and Southeast stations. Building on its success, the Protocol will be rolled out Countywide, with full implementation targeted for completion in 2017. Success of the Protocol is due to the hard work of DCFS staff and with their law enforcement and Probation partners. This multi-department team deserves congratulations as the Protocol was selected for the 2015 National Association of Counties Achievement Award.



The First Responder Teams receives NACo award. (From L. to R.) DCFS Adoptions Assistant Dario Grant, DCFS Manager Emilio Mendoza, Social Workers Maria Pacheco and Kathy Silva, DCFS Manager Tonya Octave, Department of Health Services' Dr. Janet Arnold, Probation Manager Violet Dawson, DCFS Manager Xiomara Flores-Holguin, DCFS Senior Deputy Director Cynthia McCoy-Miller, Long Beach Police Department Lieutenant Daniel Pratt, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Merrill Landenheim.

CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

On October 11, 2015, Governor Brown signed legislation that comprehensively reformed placement and treatment options for youth in foster care. Assembly Bill 403 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2015), also known as the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), builds upon years of policy changes and implements a series of new reforms and measures designed to improve the outcomes for children in foster care.

Effective January 1, 2017, AB 403/CCR establishes a sunset date for existing licensure, rate setting, and other provisions of group homes and foster family agencies. It provides for licensure of short-term residential therapeutic programs (STRTP). These STRTPs must meet higher standards of care and provide short-term intensive and specialty mental health services that meet the unique needs of children. STRTPs will be designed to quickly transition children back to their own or another permanent family. As the child is transitioned to a family-like setting, there will be a continuum of services that follow the youth.

The bill also provides for the development of Child and Family Teams (CFT) to inform the process of placement and services to foster children. It defines CFT meetings as the primary vehicle for collaboration on the assessment, case planning, and placement decisions of children, so that the first out-of-home placement is the right one. Services and supports will be tailored to the strengths and needs of a child and delivered to the child in a family-based environment.

On January 1, 2017, the bill requires all licensed foster care providers, including relatives, to undergo approval via the Resource Family Approval program (RFA). The RFA is a key component of AB 403. It is a new family friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the current foster, relative, adoption home licensing approval processes and combines them into one unified process. The RFA requires enhanced assessments of caregivers and training for all Resource Families. Once approved, a Resource Family can be an emergency, temporary and/or permanent family for a child – with only one application, one background check and a combined home environment and psychosocial assessment.



RESOURCE FAMILY RECRUITMENT AND RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

The Department of Children and Family Services is actively working on enhanced strategies to increase the number of placement resources for children in care. During the last year, DCFS had an increase of 8.7% in the number of available licensed foster family homes. This increase was made possible through DCFS participation in 55 community events to share information with the public on our critical need for resource parents. We also held eight community-based Recruitment Expos, inviting community members to learn about becoming a resource parent and to hear from a panel of foster and adoptive parents who shared their experiences in making a difference in the lives of children. With support from the Board of Supervisors, these Expos have been successful due to local outreach efforts and vital partnerships with community colleges, the faith-based community, law enforcement, libraries, and local politicians such as Councilmember Al Austin from Long Beach. As a result of our outreach efforts, 2,100 families attended an orientation with DCFS.

In addition to strengthening recruitment, DCFS is also increasing the supports available to caregivers. Examples include a support social worker providing new foster parents with a welcome backpack of resource information and items of appreciation; and relative caregivers are provided an emergency placement stipend when they welcome a child into their home. Supporting resource parents is of critical importance to retain these valuable families for placement of children and for providing permanency. This past year, more than 1,400 children permanently left foster care with loving adoptive parents through adoption services provided by DCFS.

Our Department is preparing for full implementation of the Resource Family Approval program (RFA) in January 2017. The RFA is a new family friendly, child-centered assessment process which applies the same standards for all caregivers—relative, foster, adoptive and legal guardian. The RFA will eliminate the dual State processes currently required for foster parents who are also approved to adopt and replaces them with one unified process.



Randy Scarff receives a Board Scroll from Supervisor Michael Antonovich for fostering and adopting 50 youth over 40 years. (From L. to R.) Also pictured are DCFS Adoption Supervisor Bryan Miller, DCFS Director Philip Browning, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Randy Scarff, DCFS Adoption social worker Amy Wong-Martinez, and DCFS Adoption and Permanency Resources Division Chief Daniel Svedas.

APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER (ARC) PROGRAM

The Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program was the result of State Senate Bill 855, which was signed into law in June 2014. The Bill made provisions for ARC implementation as of January 1, 2015. One provision was the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option, which provides funding for participating counties to make per child, per month payments to non-federally eligible children in an amount equal to the basic foster care rate paid to Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) providers. In addition, counties were able to participate with a retroactive option to pay relative caregivers, who met all eligibility requirements, effective January 1, 2015. In the County of Los Angeles, caregivers who provide care for non-federally eligible children may apply for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) benefits. The CalWORKs per child cash benefit is significantly lower than the basic foster care (FC) rate. The ARC Program addresses the disparity between the CalWORKs cash benefit and the basic FC rate for federally eligible children that are placed with relative caregivers. The ARC Program provides assistance to caregivers that would not qualify for CalWORKs or were hesitant to apply. As a result of collaborative efforts with DCFS and the Department of Public and Social Services, the County of Los Angeles formally implemented the retroactive option, effective June 1, 2015. The implementation of the ARC Program has resulted in hundreds of relative caregivers, serving about 2,000 children, receiving a monthly foster care payment.

Relative caregivers honored by LA County Board of Supervisors for National Kinship Care Month - September 2016



(From L. to R.) Constance Taylor, Linda Goodwin, Brianna Barnes, Marissa Vilchis, DCFS Director Philip Bronwing and Carry Young.



(From L. to R.) Social worker Jacquie Astorga and Marissa Vilchis.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Business Information Systems staff has made significant advancements in our technology and use of data, which has created new and exciting opportunities to improve worker efficiency and our overall practice. This has contributed to an increase in the number of children remaining safely with their families and better communication with our community partners. Below are highlights of a few new Information Technology programs implemented in the past few years that have streamlined the work of our social workers.

Foster Care Search System

This new tool significantly enhances the Department's ability to process child placement searches, and placement requests. The system automates the process of creating and submitting pertinent forms by pre-populating them with available data to eliminate manual data entry, and provides electronic signatures for approvals via desktop computers, tablets, or mobile phones. Over 18,000 placements are processed each year.

Mobile Client Portal

The MCP is a mobile web application that provides remote access of children's records to social workers enabling them to be more productive and allowing for more time to be spent with clients.

Student Information Tracking System

DCFS developed a student information sharing system between social workers and Los Angeles County school districts to identify foster youth within the school districts and provide them with the services needed for academic success.

Warrant Tracking System

The Warrant Tracking System is a web-based system that tracks the status of warrant applications (to take children into protective custody) Submitted to the juvenile court. This system facilitates communication and sharing of information between DCFS and the Office of the County Counsel. Approximately 10,000 warrants are obtained annually to remove children from unsafe environments.



On October 19, 2016, DCFS Business Information Systems (BIS) Division received the Gold Eagle Award for the development of the Foster Care Search System. The Gold Eagle is the highest recognition awarded at the Productivity and Quality Awards luncheon.

(From L. to R.) Back row: BIS Managers Jason Ly, Bill Wong and DCFS Director Philip Browning. Front row: DCFS BIS Managers My Trinh, Kimberly Tran, BIS Division Chief Cecilia Custodio, Senior Deputy Director Cynthia McCoy-Miller, and DCFS Manager Arman Depanian.



In September, DCFS accepted the prestigious ISM 2016 Recognition Award for Excellence in Human Services Technology for Innovation in Service Delivery in Phoenix, AZ, for the "Mobile Client Portal." DCFS developed this mobile technology to help streamline tasks (e.g., access case information, complete case notes using voice dictation, plus others) thereby freeing social workers to engage families, provide quality services, and focus on child safety.

DCFS CULTURAL BROKERS PROGRAM TARGETS THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF OUR CLIENTS

Throughout the United States, children of color, African-American children in particular, are over-represented in the client populations of child welfare agencies. This “disproportionality” is a phenomenon that the Los Angeles County DCFS is diligently seeking to address and eliminate by implementing the Cultural Brokers Program. Cultural Brokers are community members, ideally of the same culture as birth families, who participate in meetings to help families understand the procedures and expectations of the child welfare system. Cultural brokers are individuals whose knowledge of DCFS and community resources will assist families as they navigate through the child welfare process. They support and empower families towards our common goal to protect and keep children safe. Serving as advocates of the family, Cultural Brokers facilitate communication to emphasize the strengths of families.

The goal of Cultural Brokers are to 1) keep children safe from harm, 2) prevent families from entering the child welfare system, whenever possible, and 3) lessen the likelihood that children will experience extended time in out-of-home care.

In an effort to expand and sustain the program, the DCFS Pomona office has partnered with additional regional offices within the Department to provide “Cultural Brokers Workshops.”

DCFS SPECIALIZED UNITS



American Indian Unit staff members at the 2015 Tiospaye Native Foster Family/Parent Recruitment Event.

(From L. to R.) Supervisor Eddie Adams, Social Worker Robert Escamilla, Supervisor Robert Rodriguez, Assistant Regional Administrator David White.

Los Angeles County DCFS has specialized units to meet the unique needs of our clients. The American Indian Units serve the largest urban American Indian population in the United States, while the Asian Pacific Units work with the largest and most diverse Asian American community found in California. Los Angeles County also has the largest deaf population in the State of California, whose specific needs are addressed by our Deaf Services Unit. The American Indian Unit, Asian Pacific Program and Deaf Services Unit specialize in the diverse cultural needs of each client and can expertly access the many cultural resources available in our communities. Social workers in the Asian Pacific Unit speak seven different languages representing sixty-one cultures. All Deaf Unit social workers are fluent in American Sign Language and all are equipped with Video Relay Service equipment required for communication with their deaf clients. All social workers in the American Indian Unit are experts in the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act and are in regular contact with Tribes across the nation. These specialized units represent LA County’s priority to provide “best practice” tailored services to meet the unique cultural and language needs of its diverse client population.

DCFS HAGUE UNIT ON THE MOVE



Mexican Officials (in uniform) with (from L. to R.) Department of Justice Agent Val Jimenez and DCFS Supervisor Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, and DCFS social workers Chanttel Briseño and Elvia del Cid. (Photo taken in Coacalco de Berriozábal, México)

A simple ask from DCFS Regional Administrator Charles Tadlock to Deputy Director Roberta Medina, “Do we have any staff to attend Hague hearings?”, led to the creation of the DCFS Hague Unit in 2014. The unit was created to recover internationally abducted children utilizing the Hague Convention, a multilateral treaty with three primary objectives:

1. To secure the prompt return of a wrongfully removed or retained child to his or her country of habitual residence;
2. To ensure that rights of custody and access in one signatory country are respected in other signatory countries; and
3. To deter future international abductions.

The Hague Unit, trained in the nuances of Hague hearings, includes bilingual social workers Chanttel Briseño, Elvia del Cid, Nancy Delgado and supervisors Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, Angelica Varela-Campos, Cynthia Van Dam, and Cecilia Saco. These workers volunteer to travel to foreign countries accompanied by a Department of Justice law enforcement officer who assists with travel, safety issues, and attends hearings. Since its inception, nine hearings have been held, six of which required a Hague Unit social worker to appear in a foreign court, each leading to a resolution of an abduction case. Through these hearings two children were recovered. There are currently nine international child abduction cases pending, primarily in Mexico. At a moment’s notice, these workers are prepared to travel to any foreign country to attend Hague hearings, recover children, and safely bring them home.

“MI QUINCEAÑERA... A DREAM COME TRUE”



President/CEO of Quinceañera.com Martha De La Torre with quinceañeras.



Valeria being interviewed by Telemundo.

On March 12, 2016, elegant gowns, radiant smiles, upbeat music, tasty food, fragrant flowers and a multitude of cheerful guests came together at La Plaza De Cultura y Artes in the City of Los Angeles for the second annual Mi Quinceañera. DCFS, Telemundo, Quinceañera.com, and other sponsors, united to host this event honoring eight foster youth: Natalie, Valeria, Adriana, Henessy, Shene, Lina, Jessica and Ana.

A quinceañera is a rite-of-passage tradition celebrated by many Latino cultures to recognize the significance of a girl’s transformation from childhood to young adulthood. The honorees were selected for their resilience in overcoming childhood struggles, and for their academic dedication and promising potential to thrive as young women in their communities.

This cultural milestone is intended to make these young women feel special, create positive memories, build their confidence, and cultivate a sense of connection to their community. The words “magical” and “unforgettable” truly describe the annual Mi Quinceañera. As Shene commented, “I have never felt so special and important.”

2016 DENIM DAY



For the last 17 years, Peace Over Violence has held their annual Denim Day on a Wednesday in April. Denim Day draws attention to the fact that rape and sexual assault remains a serious issue in our society, and injurious attitudes about rape and sexual assault allow these crimes to persist and victim/survivors to be re-victimized. Many in our society remain disturbingly uninformed about issues of assault and forcible rape.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors strongly support the efforts of Peace Over Violence and proclaimed April 27, 2016, Denim Day. The proclamation urged everyone to wear jeans and attend Denim Day observances in their area to help communicate the message that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to rape.”

Wearing jeans for Denim Day is DCFS Director Philip Browning, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor Kuehl’s Children’s Deputy Genie Chough and DCFS Senior Deputy Director Diane Iglesias.

THE TRANSITIONAL SHELTER CARE PROGRAM



The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, in partnership with the Department of Health Services and Mental Health, operated the Children and Youth's Welcome Centers since 2012 and 2014, respectively. The Welcome Centers, located at the LAC+USC Medical Center campus, serving children and youth needing a place to wait until a foster home was secured. The Welcome Centers operated as 23-hour shelters, and despite best placement search efforts, a small number of children remained at the Welcome Centers beyond the 23 hours. Hence, the State of California mandated that children and youth await placement in a facility licensed for overnight stays. The Department sought existing group home providers to take on this task, and ultimately contracted four agencies to become Transitional

Shelter Care facilities. The contracted agencies are Hathaway-Sycamores (pictured), Five Acres, David & Margaret, and Junior Blind of America. After working on operational standards and getting their premises in top condition, these four agencies were granted 72-hour transitional shelter care licenses by the California Community Care Licensing Division in March 2016. Given their expertise in running residential facilities, these agencies are now providing excellent care and supervision to our children and youth. The Department has also co-located DCFS staffers within these shelters to act as liaisons between the agencies and DCFS.

The shelters are designed to accept children and youth after regular business hours, weekends and holidays. The shelters also serve DCFS regional offices that need a home for children or youth when all efforts to find other foster homes during regular business hours have been exhausted. There is a 68-bed capacity among all four shelters and they have served approximately 15 children/youth per night since their March openings.

CORNELIA FUNKE AWARDS



The LAC+USC Medical Center's Violence Intervention

Program (VIP) and internationally acclaimed Cornelia Funke honored the 2016 recipients of the Cornelia Funke Awards, which recognizes social workers for their outstanding efforts on behalf of children and families. Each honoree, nominated by their DCFS peers, receives a gift package

totaling \$5,000, which includes a weeklong vacation to rejuvenate and refocus on the job of protecting children. This year's honorees are: Ariel Rivera, Dana Rose, Twanette Crab, and Alisha Von Lewis.

Pictured (From L. to R.) Board Supervisor Hilda Solis' Deputy Taylor Dudley, DCFS Chief Deputy Director Brandon Nichols, honoree Dana Rose and Twanette Crab, Dr. Astrid Heger of the VIP, honoree Ariel Rivera, Cornelia Funke, and honoree Alisha Von Lewis.

ALL FOR THE LOVE OF KIDS 2016



Members of the Mixed Roots Foundation with Supervisor Antonovich. (From L. to R.) Glenn Bowie, Michael Reagan (son of President Ronald Reagan), Emile Mack, Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Mixed Roots Founder and President Holly Choon Hyang Bachman, Jamie Young-Eke, Gabriella van Rij, DCFS Director Philip Browning, Bonnie Ryder.

A County Board Supervisor Michael Antonovich held his 21st “All for the Love of Kids” fundraiser for the DCFS Children’s Trust Fund, before he steps down after 36 years of service championing foster care issues. The DCFS Trust Fund provides otherwise unfunded services to LA County foster youth including certain medical and dental services, clothing, bedding, certain prescription glasses, educational field trips, equipment and uniforms for sports, and enrichment activities. This year’s honorees included “Machete” star and popular film actor Danny Trejo and Hayden Byerly, featured actor on the acclaimed TV drama series “The Fosters.” Also honored were The Mixed Roots Foundation, James Store House and Baby 2 Baby for their contributions to foster and at-risk youth. The nearly \$24,000 raised will help to enhance the lives of DCFS foster youth.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY 2015



On November 20, 2015, 100 families celebrated with their newly adopted children at the Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court in Monterey Park. National Adoption Day was first celebrated in Los Angeles in 1998, under the leadership of Judge Michael Nash, the former Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, to help expedite adoptions. Since 1998, more than 34,000 adoptions have been finalized in Los Angeles County. Last year, DCFS finalized over 1,400 adoptions.

To become a foster or adoptive parent, call 1-888-811-1121 or visit www.shareyourheartla.org.

Esther Barrios (far left) celebrates the adoption of her third son (second from right) at National Adoption Day with her family and Adoption social worker Griselda Sifuentes (far right).

FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

On June 20, 2016, the County of Los Angeles sponsored the first-ever "Foster Youth Shadow Day," allowing foster youth to shadow managers in Board offices and in various County Departments. The Board of Supervisors has long identified the development of career opportunities for transition-aged youth exiting foster care as a critical issue and has supported several employment initiatives for foster youth to reach their highest potential. This job shadowing experience exposed youth to a behind-the-scenes look at County governance, which may result in them pursuing a County career!



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl with foster youth.



Supervisor Hilda Solis with foster youth.



Supervisor Don Knabe with foster youth.



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas with foster youth.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich with foster youth.

WHITE HOUSE FILM FESTIVAL



Foster youth Leanne Caldejon, 1st row, first person on the left, Angel Velasquez, 2nd row, second from the right, and Jevonne Davis, 4th row, last person on the right, pictured with President Obama and other film festival participants.

This year, Los Angeles County foster youth Leanne Caldejon, Angel Velasquez, and Jevonne Davis experienced the thrill of a lifetime. Their film, “Time for Change,” was selected as a finalist entry at the first ever South by South Lawn White House Film Festival. The highlight of the festival was their meeting with President Obama. Two other foster youth who worked on the film, Marquies Drake and Danny Avelar, were unable to attend the event. The aspiring filmmakers, in collaboration with Kids in the Spotlight (KITS), a unique filmmaking program for foster youth, scripted, casted, and starred in their own short film. Their film depicts historical characters and poses the question, “What world do you want to live in?” with the underlying message, “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

The young filmmakers were ecstatic after meeting President Obama. “I cried when I met President Obama. I never thought anything like this could ever happen to me. This weekend taught me to never give up—to never stop pursuing my dreams,” said Leanne Caldejon. It’s still hard for Angel Velasquez to believe she actually met the President and



(From L. to R.) KITS Executive Director Tige Charity, Jevonne Davis, Leanne Caldejon, DCFS Manager Dominique Robinson, Angel Velasquez, and Modern Family TV actor and KITS supporter Ty Burrell.

was inside the White House. “It’s the coolest thing that ever happened to me,” said Angel. Jevonne Davis, an aspiring actor, sat for an exclusive photo shoot with famed portrait photographer Chuck Close in the White House State Dining Room. Said Jevonne, “Getting to meet the President at this film festival was historic as he’ll be leaving office soon.”

YOUTH ON THE MOVE PROGRAM



Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and DCFS receiving a Board Recognition for the Youth on the Move Program. (From L. to R.) Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, MTA Manager Michael Cano, Supervisor Hilda Solis, DCFS Youth Development Services Division Chief Wendy Luke, Children's Commissioner Trish Curry, MTA Chief Executive Officer Phil Washington, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, DCFS Deputy Director Helen Berberian, Chief Executive Office Manager Harvey Kawasaki, DCFS Director Philip Browning, and Supervisor Don Knabe.

The Youth on the Move Program is a collaboration between the County of Los Angeles DCFS and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The program was implemented in July 2012 and has provided over 5,000 current and former foster youth, between the ages of 18-21, with annual transit access passes for free. The program enables youth transitioning from foster care to step into independence, utilizing a vast network of Los Angeles County public transportation options.

FAMILY FUN DAY 2016

On September 17, 2016, DCFS held its annual Family Fun Day at Whittier Narrows Park. DCFS employees and their families picnicked with friends and family, danced and competed in a spirited volleyball tournament won by the Covina Annex office.



Regional Administrator Frank Ramos (holding Trophy) with Covina Annex volleyball champions.



DCFS Santa Fe Springs staff members and their families.

CELEBRATION 2016 AT WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL



High-achieving foster youth who exemplify academic success took center stage at the 27th annual “Celebration 2016” high school graduation ceremony held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Nearly \$1 million in scholarships was awarded to 175 youth including aspiring astrophysicists, journalists, doctors, therapists, and youth advocates. Hundreds of friends, foster parents and family members proudly watched, applauded, and cheered as the foster youth marched across the stage to honor this significant milestone in their lives—an occasion marked by academic achievement and triumph over adversity. Actor Danny Trejo (shown above) delivered a special message for the graduates, encouraging the pursuit of higher education. Several media outlets attended to share this celebration with the community. Below are excerpts from media coverage.



Celebration 2016: foster care graduates ready to shoot for the moon

by Elizabeth Green June 9, 2016

“On Tuesday this week...175 graduating high school seniors on stage at Los Angeles’ famed Walt Disney Concert Hall...honoree(s) of Celebration 2016, the annual ceremony for foster youth who graduated high school...and who will be going on to college. Students beamed as their families, teachers, social workers and friends cheered them on, all recognizing yet another way in which these young people have overcome the odds and faced adversity undeterred...This year’s graduates will also receive scholarships totaling close to one million dollars to support their college experience over the next five years.”

Los Angeles Daily News Foster care system takes its knocks, but it works for many:

By Dennis McCarthy June 16, 2016

“The 2016 graduating class from the school of hard knocks stood on stage at the Disney Concert Hall last week to be honored with college scholarships for completing the first leg of a long, tough journey they’ve been on...They are 175 foster care kids who have beaten every obstacle put in their path and succeeded beyond all expectations. They have shown the courage and they have the dreams. Now, it’s time to pursue them....When things go right, is it not only fair to applaud our foster care system, as well?”

Hoy

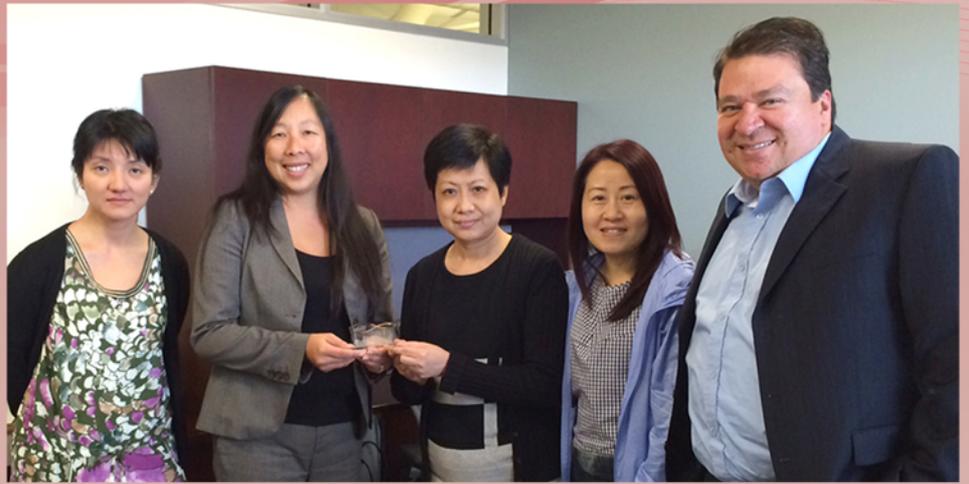
Encontró en las matemáticas un cristal para restar importancia a los golpes de la vida

By Soudi Jiménez June 06, 2016

“Moisés, de quien se omite el apellido, pronto se graduará de la preparatoria Reseda y el Condado de Los Ángeles le otorgará una beca para que siga la universidad. Él es uno de los 175 muchachos acreedores al incentivo que, en el verano, utilizará para incorporarse al Pierce College..... “Es el comienzo de una nueva etapa en mi vida”, indicó sobre el diploma de la secundaria y, que como cereza sobre el pastel, participará en una ceremonia en el Walt Disney Concert Hall en donde le entregarán la beca a este joven que fue víctima de la violencia en su hogar.”

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS VISIT DCFS

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services hosted foreign delegations from around the world in 2015-2016. Their visits included tours of our Child Protection Hotline, a 24/7 operation, and other DCFS Programs.



Hong Kong Delegation visits the Hotline - June 27, 2016



Brazilian Delegation visits the Hotline - August 28, 2015



South Korean Delegation visits the Hotline - June 20, 2016



Kyrgyzstan Delegation with DCFS Adoption & Legislation Managers - September 27, 2016

DCFS TAKES THE WELLNESS CHALLENGE

The DCFS Health and Safety Management section encourages all DCFS staff to participate in various wellness activities such as Countywide Fitness Challenges, American Heart Association and March of Dimes runs/walks, yoga, Pilates, Zumba, dance and Biggest Loser Challenges. The Countywide Fitness Challenge runs from April through November, are free to employees and their families, and offers a variety of fun fitness activities such as cooking demonstrations, raffles, healthy snacks and giveaways. Webinars cover informative health topics such as prevention, nutrition, dieting, exercise, stress management, and sleep to promote overall well-being to employees. Wellness Fairs offer free blood pressure, cholesterol, and vision checkups and provide flu shots, massage therapy, ergonomics and more. Exercise classes are offered at the Hall of Administration for busy employees during lunch breaks or after work. The message is getting through—426 DCFS employees have participated in daily wellness walks. Health and Safety is available to all DCFS employees to encourage, promote and develop a lifetime of optimum wellness.



(From L. to R.) DCFS Managers Lynette Morgan-Nichols, Olivia Rubio, Tricia Denson, Philip L. Browning, Germaine Key, Dominique Robinson, Grace Lee and Joann Lal.



DCFS Fire Dragons in action, getting some exercise and staying healthy.

DCFS FIRE DRAGONS RACE TO 1ST PLACE



(From L. to R.) Marcela Martinez, Carla Martinez, DCFS Team members Luis Araujo, Saskia Gonzalez (kneeling), Jessica Ambroz, Laura Andrade, Javier Oliva, Andy Cheng (friend), James Bang and Edmund Chung (DCFS).

reach a common goal, and in dragon boat racing, our timeline to permanence is a quick race to the finish line. In 2016, with hard work, dedication and a bit of luck, we had a great race day and came in first place in our division securing the gold medal. More than the win, this exciting and fun sport for participants and spectators alike, is really about being a part of something bigger than ourselves and the understanding that working together really makes us stronger in mind and body.

The DCFS Fire Dragon Team consists of DCFS employees and friends interested in the competitive and team spirit of this sport. Each spring 10 to 15 old and new members are recruited. The biggest challenge is finding healthy and active individuals committed to attend practice sessions. With everyone's work and family commitments, it's daunting to be at practice at 7 a.m. at the Santa Fe Dam on weekends. This kind of commitment is not for the faint of heart, but does speak to a level of dedication. Dragon boat racing requires the cohesion of the team to perform well because when one or more paddler is out of sync, the whole boat and its members are impacted. In many ways, the spirit of dragon boat racing is aligned with the Department's missions and goals. There is a sense of family and camaraderie to keep members self-sufficient and safe. As a team, they must work together to

DCFS 300 KREW CROWNED SOFTBALL CHAMPS



(From L. to R.) back row: Derek Johnson (DHS), Emilio Mendoza (DCFS MART/CSEC), Martin Aguilar (non-county), Ricardo Fernandez, Lorena Gonzalez (Van Nuys), Javier Oliva (Torrance), Marc Williams (DCFS Command Post), Monica Rodriguez (Santa Clarita), Saul Gomez (Compton) front row: Robert Varela (Van Nuys) and David Velasco (Pomona).

The 300 Krew team was originally social workers from the old East San Fernando and West San Fernando Valley DCFS offices who competed in a Thursday night softball league. The "300 Krew" name references the WIC 300 Child Welfare Institution Codes. On October 1, 2016, the 300 Krew were crowned champions of the LA Countywide Fitness Challenge Softball Tournament, dethroning the previous champions from the Probation Department. Said team member and Torrance Regional Administrator Javier Oliva, "We had a huge 5th inning where we scored 12 runs. It was a great team effort with everyone contributing."

COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT DIVISION

The Community Based Support Division (CBSD) works with local, contracted Community Based Organizations and other County Departments to provide a wide array of services to DCFS involved families and their children as well as families who may be at risk of entering the child welfare system. CBSD has oversight of a number of programs which assists social workers in addressing families' unique needs to provide a safe, viable home for their children. CBSD's programs include: Prevention and Aftercare (P&A) Services, Family Preservation, Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment, Time Limited Family Reunification, Partnership for Families, and Adoption Promotion and Support Services. In addition, CBSD auxiliary programs include: Linkages, Incarcerated Parents Program, Supportive and Therapeutic Options, Victims of Crime, and Family Visitation Centers, Safe Child Custody and Exchange. These programs help families identify and build upon existing strengths, resolve problems causing child safety concerns, address economic challenges, and expand or establish for the first time, families' connection to resources and supports in the local community.



(From L. to R.) back row: CBSD Managers Maria Molinari, Christine Balderas-Vasquez, CBSD Division Chief Marilynne Garrison, Vernita Cox, Ronda Jacobs, Sousan Tayrani, Yesenia Mendoza-Menchaca and Peter Brosnan. front row: CBSD Managers Lorna Schill, Sevana Naaman, Wendy Tashiro, Alma Golla, Linda Labon-Banks and David Yada.

A powerful outcome from one of our newest CBSD's programs, Prevention and Aftercare Services is illustrated below. Ms. X came to SPIRITT Family Services having endured more than 20 years of marriage to a husband who abused her psychologically, verbally, sexually and financially. Ms. X had tried to separate from her husband before, but with six children and no resources of her own, this proved very difficult. SPIRITT's Prevention and Aftercare P&A services began by providing a voucher for a hotel and food for herself and her children. Her P&A Case Navigator put her in contact with an agency that assisted her with housing, and in three months, Ms. X had her own place. P&A Services also assisted the family with beds for the children. However, Ms. X and her children needed help in dealing with the emotional aftermath of the abuse they endured. SPIRITT helped enroll her kids in the Children's Art Support Group, while Ms. X enrolled in domestic violence and parenting classes. Ms. X took advantage of all the community forums offered by SPIRITT including presentations on immigration, mental health, financial literacy and job development. When Ms. X successfully terminated P&A services, she was a totally different individual, optimistic about her future and the future of her children. Her children were receiving services at a local mental health agency and Ms. X planned to obtain her GED. Ms. X felt emotionally strong enough to take care of her children and to make decisions on her own. She began divorce proceedings, and SPIRITT helped her with legal assistance to obtain full custody of her children. The best thing Ms. X received was her restored confidence, "freedom," and the tools to build her own support systems.

NEW AUTOMATED LEADER REPLACEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED



On October 24, 2016, DCFS implemented the new automated Leader Replacement System (LRS) for foster care eligibility determination for the County. The design and development of this system had been

in the works for over a year with a dedicated team shown above from DCFS, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the information technology vendor Accenture. Over 500,000 active and inactive DCFS cases were converted from the old system to the new LRS. The LRS is managed by DPSS and will serve not only LA County, but also 39 counties currently in the C-IV consortium. This new foster care eligibility system should be faster, more reliable and up to date than the previous system which it replaced. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work.

DCFS UNIVERSITY GRAND OPENING



Philip L. Browning and USC School of Social Work Dean Marilyn Flynn open the DCFS University with the University Consortium for Children & Families (UCCF) board members and DCFS managers. The event was well attended by DCFS and UCCF training staff and the Board of Supervisors Children's Deputies.

September 10, 2015 marked the grand opening of DCFS University, a 28,000-square foot state-of-the-art training center, located at 1149 S. Hill St. in downtown Los Angeles. The training center provides an enhanced comprehensive learning experience for DCFS social workers. New DCFS social workers complete a 10-week training academy covering a wide spectrum of child welfare topics such as investigation techniques, child safety, legal and multicultural issues and establishing effective relationships with families. For our new social workers, the DCFS University will address every aspect of what the job entails. Our simulation labs are especially effective as new workers will have the opportunity to role-play scenarios, based on lessons learned from actual records, that they are likely to encounter in their work.”

DCFS REGIONAL OFFICES

SERVICE BUREAU I



Palmdale
39959 Sierra Hwy.
Palmdale, CA 93550
Robin Younger-Holmes
Regional Administrator
(661) 223-4111
Reception (661) 223-4200



Glendora
725 S. Grand Ave.
Glendora, CA 91740
Aris Banico
Regional Administrator
(626) 691-1692
Reception (626) 691-1700



Lancaster
300 E Avenue K6
Lancaster, CA 93535
Roxanna Flores-Aguilar
Regional Administrator
(661) 471-1369
Reception (661) 471-1001



Pasadena
532 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101
Muzeyyen Balaban
Regional Administrator
(626) 229-3737
Reception (626) 229-3500



Van Nuys
7555 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
Adrienne Olson
Regional Administrator
(818) 904-8755
Reception (818) 904-8300



Pomona
801 Corporate Center Drive
Pomona, CA 91768
Angela Parks-Pyles
Regional Administrator
(909) 802-1512
Reception (909) 802-1300

Chatsworth
20151 Nordhoff St.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Laura Shotzbarger
Regional Administrator
(818) 717-4808
Reception (818) 717-4009 or 4002



And

Santa Clarita
28490 Avenue Stanford
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Laura Shotzbarger
Regional Administrator
(661) 702-6202
Reception (661) 702-6262



El Monte
4024 Durfee Ave.
El Monte, CA 91732
Frank Ramos
Regional Administrator
(626) 938-1823
Reception (626) 455-4660

And

Covina Annex (Specialized Programs)
1373 E. Center Court Dr.
Covina, CA 91724
Frank Ramos
Regional Administrator
(626) 938-1610
Reception (626) 938-1601

DCFS REGIONAL OFFICES

SERVICE BUREAU I Continued...



**Metro North
(Central Los Angeles Area)**
1933 S. Broadway, Suite 6
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Helen Maxwell
Regional Administrator
(213) 763-1528
Reception (213) 763-1440



West LA
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Michael Rauso
Regional Administrator
(323) 900-2200
Reception (323) 900-2222

SERVICE BUREAU II



**Vermont Corridor
(South Los Angeles Area)**
8300 S. Vermont Ave. 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Reginald Carter
Regional Administrator
(323) 965-5171
Reception (323) 965-7060

Compton
921 E. Compton Blvd.
Compton, CA 90221
Agustin Martinez
Regional Administrator
(310) 668-6605
Reception (310) 668-6600

And

Compton West
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., 1st Floor
Hawthorne, CA 90250
Agustin Martinez
Regional Administrator
(310) 668-6605
Reception (310) 263-2178



**Wateridge
(South Los Angeles Area)**
5110 W. Goldleaf Circle
Los Angeles, CA 90056
Danaette Page
Regional Administrator
(323) 290-8437
Reception (323) 290-8500



**Wateridge
(South Los Angeles Area)**
5110 W. Goldleaf Circle
Los Angeles, CA 90056
Sonia Contreras
Regional Administrator
(323) 290-8441
Reception (323) 290-8500



**Belvedere
(East Los Angeles Area)**
5835 S. Eastern Ave.
Commerce, CA 90040
Art Lieras
Regional Administrator
(323) 725-4500
Reception (323) 725-4401



Santa Fe Springs
10355 Slusher Dr.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Jennifer A. Lopez
Regional Administrator
(562) 903-5101
Reception (562) 903-5000



Torrance
2325 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501
Javier Oliva
Regional Administrator
(310) 972-3114
Reception (310) 972-3111



South County
4060 Watson Plaza Drive
Lakewood, CA 90712
Charles Tadlock
Regional Administrator
(562) 497-3303
Reception (562) 497-3500

COUNTYWIDE SERVICES



Child Protection Hotline
1933 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Jennie Feria
Regional Administrator
(213) 765-7257
Reception (213) 763-1441 or
(213) 639-4500



Health Management Services
425 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Lisa Sorenson
Division Chief
(213) 351-5724
Reception (213) 351-5507



**Emergency Response
Command Post**
1933 S. Broadway, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Edward Fithyan
Division Chief
(213) 765-7422
Reception (213) 763-1440



Business Information Systems
12440 Imperial Hwy., Suite 501
Norwalk, CA 90650
Cecilia Custodio
Division Chief
(562) 345-6607
Reception (562) 345-6601



Youth Development Services
3530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Wendy Luke
Division Chief
(213) 351-0102
Reception (213) 351-0105



**Adoptions & Permanency
Resources Division**
532 E. Colorado Blvd.,
Pasadena, CA 91101
Daniel Svedas
Division Chief
(626) 229-3777

SEIU AND DCFS SET UP CASELOAD ACCOUNTABILITY PANEL



(From L. to R.) DCFS Social Workers Joan Marks, Melissa Scheer, David Green (SEIU 721 Treasurer), Sarah Garfield, Dina Petruzzi, Javier Ibañez, and Sharonda Wade.

Director Philip Browning along with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 721 leadership developed the Caseload Accountability Panel (CAP). This forum has allowed open and regular communication between DCFS and the Union to address any needs raised by the staff. CAP has proven to be an effective platform to develop solutions that positively impact our staff, such as the hiring of 1,300 new social workers, coaching and mentoring, caseload reduction, and enhanced hotline protocols, just to name a few.

SEIU 721 Children's Social Workers David Green, Javier Ibañez, Joan Marks, Sarah Garfield

and several of their colleagues presented a Road map to Child Safety to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The plan, which includes reducing turnover through a department-wide mentorship program, improving the quality of foster care placement, and a 15:1 staffing ratio (15 children per worker), was well received by supervisors and they approved additional hiring of 300 social workers, as well as the addition of more supervisors.

HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT:

The Department of Children and Family Services always needs adults who are willing to share their heart and their home for a child in need. We have a special need for those that will care for infants, sibling groups and teenagers. All adults who want to provide a foster or adoptive home for DCFS children, must first attend an orientation session, participate in a 33-hour training program, and receive a background check and home study.

Our children need you!

To become a Resource (Foster/Adoptive) Parent:

Call 1-888-811-1121

or visit our website:

ShareYourHeartLA.org



HOW TO GET SERVICES FOR A TRANSITION-AGED FOSTER YOUTH:

Are you a foster youth aged 16 years or older? Or are you a former foster youth? If yes, there are many services available to support you as you enter adulthood.

For services and resources for former foster youth and foster youth age 16 and over, go to:

ilponline.org



Youth Development Services

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DCFS & COUNTY MAP

Los Angeles County Social Services began in the Office of the Superintendent of Children’s and Women’s Work, formed in 1891, to care for destitute women and their children under the guidelines of the 1851 Poor Law. The Department of Charities was formed in 1913 and included five divisions: County Hospital, County Farm, Outdoor Relief, Olive View Sanitarium, and Cemetery Divisions. The Division of Outdoor Relief was expanded and renamed, the Bureau of Indigent Relief in 1938, and the Bureau of Public Assistance in 1943. In 1966, the Bureau of Public Assistance became the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), which included child protection services.

Following public discussion and with the support of local child advocates, in 1984 the Los Angeles County Board Supervisors created both the Department of Children Services and the Commission for Children’s Services. Then in 1994, the Board changed the Department’s name to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), effective January 1, 1995.

Key dates in DCFS history:

1903: First Juvenile Court in California was created to cover delinquents, pre-delinquents, and dependents categorized as “wards of the court” and under the supervision of the Probation Department.

1935: Passage of California Civil Code 232 allowed the “freeing” of abandoned children for adoption.

1964-66: Passage of mandatory child abuse reporting laws provided a legal basis for child abuse reporting.

LEGEND for FY 2015-16 Districts

- Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor
First District
- Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor
Second District
- Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor
Third District
- Don Knabe, Supervisor
Fourth District
- Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor
Fifth District
- DCFS Regional Offices



PAST DCFS DIRECTORS



Lola Hobbs
October 1984 – April 1985



Robert Chaffee
April 1985 – July 1990



Elwood Lui
Interim Director
August 1990 – December 1990



Peter Digre
January 1991 – June 1999



Sandra Davis
Interim Director
July 1999 – November 1999



Anita Bock
December 1999 – August 2002



Marjorie Kelly
Interim Director
August 2002 – March 2003



David Sanders
March 2003 – July 2006



Joan Smith
Interim Director
July 2006 – September 2006



Trish Ploehn
September 2006 – December 2010



Antonia Jiménez
Interim Director
December 2010 – April 2011



Jackie Contreras
Interim Director
May 2011 – August 2011

The DCFS Biennial Report was prepared by the DCFS Public Affairs Division:
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We welcome your comments: publicaffairs@dcfs.lacounty.gov



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