

DCFS News

Fall 2015

Philip L. Browning

Director

Diane Iglesias

Senior Deputy Director

Cynthia McCoy-Miller

Senior Deputy Director

Helen Berberian

Deputy Director, Bureau of
Clinical Resources and Services

Maryam Fatemi

Deputy Director, Service Bureau 1

Eric Marts

Deputy Director
Contract Services Bureau

Roberta Medina

Deputy Director
Specialized Response Bureau

Rhelda Shabazz

Deputy Director, Juvenile Court
& Adoption Bureau

Dr. Charles Sophy

Medical Director
Bureau of Clinical Resources
and Services

Dawna Yokoyama

Deputy Director, Service Bureau 2

Madeline Roachell

Assistant Deputy Director
Bureau of Operational
Support Services



DCFS Director Philip L. Browning was recognized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for receiving the national Chauncey Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding leadership in social work. (From L. to R.) Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Philip L. Browning, Marilyn Flynn (Dean of the USC School of Social Work; Dr Flynn nominated Mr. Browning for this prestigious award), Supervisor Don Knabe and Supervisor Hilda Solis.

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoy this edition of our DCFS News. It will give you a look at some of the great things happening in our Department and the good work we are doing for our children and families. We recently compiled a list of our accomplishments from the 2014 - 2015 fiscal year and I thought I’d share a few of them with you:

In 2014-2015, we:

- Operated a complex Department with a budget of over \$2 billion and 8,000 employees serving over 35,000 children daily; we are the largest locally administered child welfare program in America.
- Received over 200,000 calls to the 24/7 Child Protection Hotline and generated emergency response referrals for 175,000 children.
- Served approximately 10,000 judicial warrants, which saved children from abuse and neglect.
- Increased Emergency Shelter Care beds from 120 to approximately 150 to serve at risk children who cannot live safely at home until a more permanent placement is found.
- Hired over 1,000 Children's Social Workers in the last 2 years bringing average caseloads down to about 24 per worker from previous highs of over 30 per worker.
- Implemented the new Approved Relative Caregiver program, which increased foster care payments for our relative caregivers.

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DIRECTORS MESSAGE Continued...

- Established the DCFS Policy manual website & mobile app, which has been accessed remotely approximately 42,000 times, facilitating the work of social workers.
- Established the DCFS Foster Care Search Engine System mobile app, which allows foster placement requests to be viewed, confirmed, cancelled or stopped from a mobile smart phone when in the home of a relative or foster parent.
- With partners from our local universities, designed, planned, built and opened a new 25,000 sq. foot training center/DCFS University in a state-of-the-art facility with simulation rooms, classrooms and computer labs to train our staff.
- Implemented an independent living training pilot that gives youth hands-on experience in cooking, grooming, money management, fitness, nutrition and job readiness, rather than be limited to the previous class room training program.
- Initiated a new pilot program to team public health nurses with emergency response social workers investigating the safety of children under the age of two.
- Increased the number of foster/adoptive homes by 150 to provide additional placement options for children.
- Successfully finalized over 1,300 adoptions.
- Successfully reunited over 5,500 children with their parents.
- With the Consumer Affairs Department, assessed almost 2,000 foster youth to ensure their credit report was correct and resolved 50 cases of identity theft or misuse.

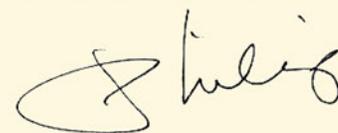
Plus, we continued to perform well on the following national child welfare standards:

- Achieved 95% compliance for monthly child contacts, exceeding the national standard of 90%.
- Maintained 99% level of no maltreatment in foster care.
- Stabilized the number of children in group homes.
- Increased by 11% the number of youth over age 18 in care due to Assembly Bill 12 (thus, allowing us to continue foster care services for youth over the age of 18).
- Improved the percentages of children experiencing placement stability (meaning two or fewer foster home placements) for the following time periods:

89% experienced stability while in care for less than 12 months, which exceeds the national standard of 86%

74% experienced stability while in care for 12 to 24 months, which exceeds the national standard of 65.4%

47% experienced stability while in care for at least 24 months which exceeds the national standard of 41.8%.



All Social Workers Deserve to be Safe Too



"Everything is going to be alright" Six words we often tell the families and children we serve. Words that are meant to give comfort to those in need. How often do we use these words to support our coworkers or ourselves? We as social workers spend so much time advocating for our families and children, we often do a lousy job advocating for ourselves. We have all joined this profession because it's our calling. It's because we believe that all children deserve to be safe. I have spent the last 15 years as a DCFS social worker because I believe that even on the tough days, we have had a positive impact on a family's life. Surrendering is not an option and hiding under the table won't solve the issues we are dealing with. The tragic death of a social worker in the state of Vermont and several other incidents of violence against those who protect children have put a focus on health and safety in our profession. This is our time to work together with the Board of Supervisors, DCFS management and Service Employee International Union to implement reforms. We need to make sure that our social workers are protected in the field and in our offices. The time is now, but we can't give up or forget that everything is going to be alright. 🇺🇸

David Green, DCFS Children's Social Worker and Service Employees International Union 721 Treasurer.

**Calling All Staff for the 2015 DCFS Family Fun Day at Whittier Narrows November 7th!
See all the fun we had last year!!**



Deputy Director Roberta Medina gets dunked.



Managers Sandra Mendoza and Reginald Carter with Reginald's daughters.



Social worker Joseph Martinez with family.



Typist-Clerk Vonciele Perez-Ocasio with daughter and friend.



(From L. to R.) Ashley with her mother Secretary Blanca Ramirez.



(From L. to R.) Supervisors Lilia Aguirre and Elia Godinez with Manager Jennifer Lopez.

“That’s All Folks!” Legendary Cartoon Filmmaker Chuck Jones Leaves Historic Mark on MacLaren Murals



Allen Withrow

MacLaren Children's Center, opened in 1961 as a County emergency shelter and housed thousands of foster youth until it was closed in 2003. In the early 90's, Allen Withrow, Group Supervisor II, was the Recreation Coordinator at MacLaren and witnessed firsthand the painting of the murals at the center. The murals were commissioned by United Friends of the Children to beautify the walls that surround the 10-acre facility. Chuck Jones, the Academy Award winning Warner Brothers animation pioneer, producer, director and the Creative genius behind

Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Road Runner, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd, Wile E. Coyote, Pepe Le Pew and many other beloved “Looney Toons” cartoon characters, was put in charge of the murals and sent a team of his animators to work their magic. A “Celebrity Day” was held to dedicate the murals once they were completed. Allen remembers, “It was a carnival atmosphere with many movie stars, professional athletes, and singers present. What stood out for me was that Chuck Jones was one of the last to leave MacLaren. He took time to sign hundreds of pictures for youth and staff of all the Warner Brothers cartoon characters he created over the years.” These murals remain at the MacLaren site today. 🇺🇸

Brazilian Delegation Visits DCFS



Child Protection Hotline Manager Greg Stock (2nd from left) conducts tour of our Hotline office with the Brazilian Delegation.

On August 28th, a delegation of Brazilian judges visited DCFS to discuss international parental child abduction issues. The visit, organized under the auspices of the U.S. State Department, took place at the Child Protection Hotline. County Counsel attorney Alyssa Skolnick was on hand to share information on how these child abductions, known as “Hague” cases, are handled in the United States. Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) manager Emilio Mendoza discussed MART's specialized role within the Department and with law enforcement, while Tom Fraser detailed the supportive role that the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect plays in the LA County child welfare system. Several members of the delegation remarked about the abundance of resources available in the United States and at DCFS. Hotline managers Gary Burks and Greg Stock fielded questions regarding the intake process at DCFS and provided the delegation with a tour of the Child Protection Hotline. The exchange of ideas that took place made for a memorable and productive visit. 🇺🇸

New Laws Impacting Child Welfare Services as of 2016

Heads up! These bills were recently signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. In the coming months, the California Department of Social Services will issue implementation instructions to all counties regarding these bills. The Office of the County Counsel will be providing overviews for our social workers on these new laws affecting social workers. Please be on the lookout for when this overview is offered for your office.

Assembly Bill (AB) 403 implements the state's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) recommendations to better serve children and youth in California's child welfare system. Some key reforms include redefining group homes as Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers and merging the separate application processes for foster and adoption parents into one process. Most changes are to take effect on or after January 1, 2017.

AB 879 will allow notices of Juvenile Court Dependency hearings to be sent by email if the county, court and parent decide to opt-in to electronic noticing. This bill was co-sponsored by Los Angeles County.

Senate Bill (SB) 478 establishes a pilot program that gives some mandated reporters the option to submit certain suspected child abuse and neglect reports through the internet. This bill was co-sponsored by Los Angeles County.

SB 731 will require children and non-minor dependents in an out-of-home placement to be placed according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records. This bill will ensure that caregivers provide appropriate supportive care, to include respecting and affirming every child's gender identity.

The following 3 bills are related to psychotropic medication and foster children.

SB 238 will require training and certification for all child welfare providers and foster parents regarding psychotropic medication, trauma, and behavioral health for children receiving child welfare services.

SB 319 will expand the duties of the foster care public health nurse to include monitoring and oversight of the administration of psychotropic medication to foster children.

SB 484 expands the duties of child welfare agency public health nurses to include monitoring and oversight of the administration of psychotropic medication for foster children. 🌸

National Association of Counties (NACo) Awards



(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, Sheriff's Captain Merrill Landenheim.

DCFS was awarded the NACo Award for the First Responder Protocol, which serves as a guide to law enforcement, County agencies, and community-based partners on appropriate steps to take within 72 hours following law enforcement contact with a child or youth identified as being commercially sexually exploited. The intent of the protocol is to divert the youth from the juvenile justice system to the child welfare system. 🌸

DCFS Honored with 2015 Government Technology Awards



The Child Abuse Prevention Payment System (CAPPS) enables provider agencies to report the hours and types of services provided to children and families during a month. CAPPS also calculates payments and allows providers to track and view monthly balances and receive alerts when they are over budget in specific service categories, thereby improving the payment process. 🏆

(From L. to R.) Philip L. Browning, Jason Ly, Jong June Lee, Rajesh Zanak, and County Chief Information Officer Richard Sanchez.



The California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System provides Children's Social Workers the tool to electronically submit adult criminal clearance requests to the California Department of Justice. This system streamlines the process and reduces the clearance turnaround time from 5-17 days to 30-60 minutes, thereby shortening the time needed to safely place a child in a relative's home. 🏆

(From L. to R.) Philip L. Browning, Jason Ly, Yohannes Seyoun, Catherine Dang, Dorothy Byron-Arrington, and Richard Sanchez.



The Foster Care Search System Mobile App allows placement requests to be viewed, confirmed, cancelled, or stopped from a mobile smart phone. Supervising Children's Social Workers, Assistant Regional Administrators, and Regional Administrators can view up-to-date child placement requests information when dropping off or removing a child from a home rather than waiting to return to the office.

(From L. to R.) Philip L. Browning, Bill Wang, Jason Ly, Andy Ye, and Richard Sanchez. 🏆



The DCFS Family Preservation and Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Linkages program provides real-time electronic interface between DCFS and DPSS systems, which allows for tracking of shared clients and enhances the response times of family preservation agencies. 🏆

(From L. to R.) Philip L. Browning, Jason Ly, Bill Wang, and Richard Sanchez.



The DCFS Child Welfare Policy Manual Website converted the existing policy documents into a web-based format that includes a search function to expedite a social worker's access to department policies and procedures. Social workers can also access the policy website remotely with a mobile app. 🏆

(From L. to R.) Philip L. Browning, Jerry Fong, Henry Hsu, Amara Suarez, Annie Vu, and Richard Sanchez.

Workplace Wellness Program: Heart Walk



(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.

On a beautiful morning this October, enthusiastic Team DCFS members participated in the 2015 Heart Walk at Long Beach Rainbow Lagoon Park. Volunteers from several organizations participated in this year's Heart Walk. We would like to thank all team DCFS members for representing the Department with tremendous team-spirit and for making the Heart Walk an exciting and fun experience: Philip L. Browning, Director; Germaine Key, Division Chief; Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director; Dominique Robinson and Tricia Denson from the Charitable Giving/Trust Fund Section, Lynette Morgan-Nichols, Civil Rights Manager; Grace Lee, Joann Lal, Marianne Garcia, Service Bureau 2-Santa Fe Springs, and Wellness Coordinator Beverly Warren. Every stride Team DCFS took together, contributed to eradicating heart disease, which is the country's leading killer. The American Heart Association is the nation's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and strokes. Monetary donations to the Heart Walk funds research, and initiatives that promote the prevention, treatment and better patient care for those suffering from cardiovascular disease.

DCFS team members expressed how refreshing it was to interact outside of the office and walk together. We hope that this marks the start of a new tradition for Team DCFS to come together to better the lives of others. It was inspiring and invigorating coming together for a good cause while simultaneously promoting our wellness! We look forward to taking more steps toward Wellness! We enthusiastically encourage you to get active and participate in Department, County or your Regional office Wellness activities. Remember, great things to happen when you start moving forward for health, and something as simple as walking can do wonders! Let's get healthy together!

For more information Contact: Olivia Rubio, Department Wellness Coordinator at rubioo@dcfs.lacounty.gov 🇺🇸



SHARE YOUR HEART...SHARE YOUR HOME

Become a Resource Parent (Foster/Adoptive Parent)

1-888-811-1121

Visit our website: ShareYourHeartLa.org

DCFS Volunteers at the Special Olympics



Social Worker Montoya Bell (far right) with Mexico's Women's Basketball Team.



Social worker Renate Winter with a member of Japan's volleyball team.



Social Worker Trainee Michelle Scheer and her daughter helped at the events.



Social Worker and Volunteer Field Assistant Caroline N Ton-nu.



DCFS Supervisor Martha Forbes (in front with blue shirt) with the Philippine's Basketball Team.



DCFS Cheering Team at the horse riding events (From L. to R.): Mathew Bengson, José Felix, Eva Keqi, Susana Marquez, Adriane Reyes, Art Chobanyan and Armand Montiel.



DCFS Cheering Team (From L. to R.) Top Row: Quyen Do, Krystal Hernandez, Amanda Hernandez-Espinoza, Michelle Penez. Bottom Row: Rosemarie Ostoich, Claire Hernandez, Leo Hernandez, Iracel Navarro, Nicole Campos, Lydia Zecharias, Kaharra Harbour.

DCFS Superstars Wow Audience at “Got Talent” Showdown with DPSS



Aris Banico

Gail Winston



Lindsay Day

The Department of Public Social Services threw down the gauntlet and DCFS accepted the challenge to see which Department is more talented - we're talking entertainment here! Superbly representing DCFS at the August 7th "Got Talent" competition were Assistant Regional Administrator Aris Banico, Children Services Administrators Tina Mosley and Gail Winston, Community Worker Annie Murray, Children's Social Worker Lindsay Day, and Adoptions Assistant Agnes Faye Coleman - all superstars in our book. The show received rave reviews. Aris Banico was voted "Most Creative Performer" for donning a mask and cape to perform songs from "Phantom of the Opera" on piano. The show was a fundraiser for the Charitable Giving Campaign and over \$1,700 was raised by the DCFS performers. Aris was honored for raising \$1,000 in donations. All performers were winners as indicated by the audience's enthusiastic response. 🎉

Annie Murray



Agnes Faye Coleman

Tina Mosley Accompanied by Jeff Gibbs



Foster Youth Celebrate their Quinceañera



(From L. to R.) Foster youth Sieni, Jennifer, Angel, Crystal, Fernanda and Maria.

Six poised and gracious young women, all foster youth nominated for this honor by their social workers, were treated to all the elements needed for a successful Quinceañera celebration (i.e., traditional music and dance, fashion, great food and gifts) on March 28th at LA Plaza de Cultura y Arte. Pedro Rivera, known as “El Padrino” and father of the late award-winning singer Jenni Rivera, sang the famous “Vals de las Mariposas” y “La Ultima Muñeca.” The event was hosted by Stephanie Himonidis, alias “Chiquibaby,” Emmy winner and co-host of Telemundo’s “Acceso Total.” Muchas gracias to Martha de la Torre, founder and president of Quinceaneca.com, El Clasificado and EC Hispanic Media, who made this magical coming-of-age rite of passage possible. 🎉



Quinceañeras with their Chambelanes (escorts).



Darlene Johnson, DCFS Sign Language Specialist, with Maria.



Pedro Rivera serenading the young ladies.



DCFS Managers Theresa Davis and Armand Montiel with Social Workers Michelle Lucarelli and Shawna Hunter.

Celebration 2015 Graduates Shine On Stage



DCFS Youth Development Services managers with graduates backstage at the Disney Hall celebration.



L.A. County Mayor Michael Antonovich addresses the graduates.



Jacob Lusk gave an exciting performance for the youth.

On June 15, 2015, 175 foster youth, graduating from high school and moving on to colleges, took center stage to celebrate their academic achievements as part of the 26th annual “Celebration 2015: Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth” received over \$1 million in scholarships. Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, United Friends of the Children President Polly Williams, and DCFS Director Philip L. Browning had special messages for the graduates. KTLA’s Chris Schauble returned to host the event and American Idol finalist Jacob Lusk wowed the crowd with several songs. It was impossible to watch this special graduation ceremony without being emotionally moved at what these foster youth have achieved. 🍷

The Social (Worker) Network



Brian Barnett

On 03/28/15, West San Fernando Valley Supervising Children's Social Worker (SCSW) Brian Barnett was recognized as the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Child Worker of the Year for Region G of the NASW California Chapter, which includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, and North Los Angeles, for his outstanding work as an Emergency Response SCSW. Brian has been with the Department for over 19 years. In addition to his work as a supervisor in continuing services and in Adoptions, Brian is a certified Child & Family Team facilitator and has volunteered at the Child Protection Hotline. "This is a very rewarding job- I love it! DCFS is making a lot of good changes with Coaching & Mentoring, the Core Practice Model, and teaming approach." He likes the enthusiasm of new workers and students and enjoys being a mentor. His message to staff is "Hang in there. When you feel stuck in your position, move around. There are a lot of opportunities at DCFS." He is described by co-worker Dawn Fleming as "an outstanding leader who shows support and guidance to his staff." 🍷

At the Parents In Partnership (PIP) picnic, parents receiving "PIP of the Year" awards are shown here with Marcela Pizarro who received the DCFS Administrator of the Year award. These parents help DCFS families successfully complete their DCFS Service plan. 🍷

(From L. to R.) Precilla Diaz, Angela Schaefer, Shalice Gosey, Kristy Barton, Marcela Pizarro, and Nancy Villalobos de Mitchell.



(From L. to R.) Marta Castro, Dominique Newby, and Jennifer Kerr.

Jose G., a medically fragile 5-year-old, needed a kidney transplant, his mother needed a more spacious and sterile home environment for his recovery. Social Worker Dominique Newby, Supervisor Marta Castro, Child Family Team Facilitator Jennifer Kerr, and Ramon Chavez, Supportive and Therapeutic Options Program (STOP) Funds Coordinator, expedited the necessary STOP funds and within a few days, a check was sent, allowing the mother to move into a larger one-bedroom apartment. On May 5th, Jose received his life-saving kidney transplant. His mother was very appreciative for the help she received from DCFS as her limited income would not allow her more appropriate housing. By all reports, Jose's healing is well underway with regular follow-up care at UCLA while enjoying his new home with his 3 other siblings. 🍷

Ten years ago, the Permanency Partners Program (P3) was started with DCFS retirees focusing their efforts on finding a significant person from a youth's past who might be considered as a placement source for the youth. Retirees Ken Cappell, Delia Hernandez, Miriam Jackson, Carol Walker, Peggy Crist, Heidi Ingalsbe, and Tina Bennett were hired then and are still working today. Supervisor Chuck Willis played a significant role in getting this program off the ground. Program Manager Tiffany Collins stated, "I sincerely appreciate the skill and dedication of all the P3 staff, both new and old. I am so impressed by how you touch the lives of the families you work with." 🍷



(From L. to R.) Tiffany Collins, Peggy Crist, Carol Walker, Delia Hernandez, Heidi Ingalsbe, Miriam Jackson, Kenneth Cappell, and Chuck Willis.



Congratulations to DCFS Glendora social worker LaLisa Morgan, honored in April as a "Women of the Year" by Assemblymember Roger Hernandez and Azusa City Councilmember Joe Rocha for her volunteer work. Ms. Morgan volunteers as a Commissioner of Human Relations for the City of Azusa to promote inclusion and diversity in community projects. Ms. Morgan supervises social work students in both bachelors and masters programs at the California State University Los Angeles and Azusa Pacific University. She also finds time to serve as a Service Employees International Union 721 steward for social workers and as an advisory board member to A Blessing in a Bag Foundation, a group that is dedicated to helping at-risk families and homeless persons in the Los Angeles area. 🇺🇸

(From L. to R.) Azusa City Council member Joe Rocha, Social Worker LaLisa Morgan and Assemblymember Roger Hernandez.

Last April, The Deaf Services Unit (DSU) received a visit from distinguished Chinese visitors wishing to learn more about the services they provide to our hearing-impaired families. Xiaobo Song is a well-known actor, anchorman and dancer in China. Mr. Song was joined by his wife Yuliang, a business owner, and Ya Zhang, a famous dancer. The Songs were very impressed with the work being done by DSU. Such services are not available in China. Ms. Song is thinking about going back to school and possibly working with us in the future. 🇺🇸



(From L. to R.) Xiaobo Song, his wife Yuliang Guo, daughter Mary, DCFS Manager Aris Banico, DSU Supervisor Karen Bowman, Ya Zhang, DSU Clerk Trinia Watkins, Social Worker Valerie Lopez, Supervisor Yoko Parson and Interpreter Tom Lam.



The children served by the Santa Fe Springs office were again blessed this year by the generosity of Trinity Worldwide Reprographics and Point Man International Ministries. Trinity contacts Children Services Administrator Julie Clemens (in pink shirt) every February and asks for a list of names, ages and interests of 50 foster children to create custom Easter baskets for each child. On March 27th, Trinity and Point Man Ministries volunteers delivered the

baskets to the Santa Fe Springs Regional Administrator Jennifer Lopez (in blue logo polo shirt) and social workers. The baskets were beautifully wrapped and customized for each child with games, toys, footballs, "Frozen" characters, art supplies, and Easter candy. 🇺🇸

After Jessica went to live with family members on the east coast, Silvia Cortez, DCFS Pasadena social worker, maintained regular contact through text messages, email and telephone calls. Jessica invited Sylvia to attend her high school graduation last June. Jessica told all her friends that her social worker was coming all the way from California to attend her graduation. After arriving, Jessica took Sylvia on a tour to meet her friends and see the college she would be attending. Jessica told Sylvia that she wants to be either a social worker or a therapist and help foster children understand that with hard work and determination they can overcome any obstacle in their lives. 🇺🇸



LAPD Teams with DCFS

“There is More than One Way to be a Hero”



On January 28th, a unique presentation was made to all Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) employees interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents. LAPD partnered with DCFS in promoting this recruitment message to all their staff throughout the city’s police stations. The theme of the event was “There is More Than One Way to be a Hero.” The presentation, facilitated by Sari Grant, DCFS Recruitment Manager with Adoption Services, included a panel of foster and adoptive families, two of which were LAPD officers. LAPD Officer Deandre James, a former foster youth, answered questions about growing up in foster care and how it guided him to pursue a career in law enforcement. 🇺🇸

(From L. to R.) DCFS Managers Rhelda Shabazz, Bill Thomas, and Sari Grant with Officer Deandre James & Officer Julie Munson, and DCFS Manager Xiomara Flores-Holguin.

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. Throughout their year-long training period, new staff also return for additional advanced trainings to further refine and build their skills. As part of their training, the new social workers also visit DCFS offices throughout the County to learn from experienced social workers. DCFS Director Philip L. Browning stated, “In the last 2 years, over 1,000 new social workers were hired and have attended our training academies. An additional 260 new workers will be hired in the next year. 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.” 🇺🇸

Director's Employee Recognition Award Winners



Xavier Rosales

*Assistant Regional Administrator
San Fernando Valley*



Allen Kuan

*Intermediate Typist Clerk
Risk Management*



Patricia Taylor

*Supervising Children's Social Worker
Santa Clarita*



Alexus Scruggs

*Warehouse Worker II
Procurement*



Maurissa Saunders

*Children Services Administrator II
Youth Development Services*



Andrea Kubulan

*Eligibility Worker I
Glendora*



Karol Carias-Galeas

*Children's Social Worker
Vermont Corridor*



Kathleen Beemer

*Human Services Aide
Torrance*



Loreta Babakhanyan

*Head Department Personnel Technician
Human Resources*



Denise Sandoval

*Human Services Aide
Metro North*



Eddie Ota

*Administrative Services Manager III
Contract Services*



Lisa Sorensen

*Children Services Administrator III
High Risk Services*

The Bears Closet Team

(Receives toys and clothes for DCFS clients)

(L. to R.) Elizabeth Azurdia, Children's Social Worker

Cristina Hernandez, Service Linkages Specialist

*Rosaura Gonzalez, Supervising Children's Social Worker
El Monte*





Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District



Los Angeles County
Department of Children
and Family Services
425 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90020
www.lacdcfs.org

DIRECTOR
Philip L. Browning

Child Protection Hotline
1-800-540-4000
Adoptions and Foster Care
1-888-811-1121

DCFS News Staff
publicaffairs@dcfs.lacounty.gov
Armand Montiel
Neil Zanville
Amara Suarez
Elizabeth Orozco
Donnetta Baker
Richard Cervantes

DCFS Employee's Anniversaries of County Service (January thru April 2015)

25 Years: Albert T. Jackson, Ana Luz Fonseca, Belinda R. Conley, Cristina Guajardo, Deborah R. Guiloff, Denise M. Lytle, Diana L. Enriquez, Dorothea Munn Vaughn, Dorothy L. Mitchell, Edna Torres, Fredric J. Rosenberg, Gladys Hidayat, Greta F. Walters, Honglin L. Lai, Ibeakalam Nduka, Irene M. Jimenez, Ivy Chandler, Jamie L. Cantor, Jennifer T. Hottenroth, Kathryn A. Collier, Leakhena J. Pel, Lois A. Chin, Luzvimnda G. Azarcon, Maurice E. Ukattah, Michelle M. Saulters, Monica E. Hicks, Monica Gonzalez-Demaldonado, Randall J. Salisbury, Robin D. Moore, Ronald J. Atlas, Rowena L. Holt, Ruben Jimenez, Rudy E. Montano, Shirley A. Rodriguez, Sophia H. Lee, Stella T. Ong, Tanya A. Cunningham, Thomas R. Packard, Travonne Brenklin, Tricia J. Denson, Zophia M. Barrera

30 Years: Alberto Miro, Ana V. Echegoyen, Arlene J. Martinez, Arturo Alva, Barry Ginsberg, Carmen Menor, Farideh Mostowfi, Hilary Star, Julie H. Nagel Karen L. Compton-Moore, Lisa R. White-Ebule, Lucie R. Whitcomb, Martha Garcia, Michelle R. Victor, Nga T. Truong, Rosa Maria Gomez, Tedjitou Dessalegn, Tika Smith, Victoria M. Jones, Yvonne E. Bacy-Bujer

35 Years: Babara Snell-Vaughn, Cindy S. Sanker, Constance F. Meissen, Daniel T. Masai, Diane M. Love, Dora E. Orozco, Fallon N. Cai, Francine Bell, Gloria J. Baker, Gonzella Brame, James L. Blaydes, Joey Chavez, Laura A. Popielski, Lydia Y. Vasquez, Maria Demchak, Reginald R. Heath, Robert Ramirez, Rosa Rodriguez, Sandra Contreras, Sharon Aguirre, Susan Leyva

40 Years: Alfonza Willis, Debra J. Marsh, Edward G. Sosa, Norma P. Tweet, Ofelia Cardenas, Phyllis W. Wilcher, Ronald F. Rios, Sharon Bell-Peer, Sharon M. Olds, Stephen R. Sanders, Teresa Mikle, Vickie K. Carletello, Virginia C. Reyes

Congratulations to Recent DCFS Retirees (January 2015 thru September 2015)

Alonza Willis, Althea E. Miller, Angelica Magana, Angie Mascarenas, Annette G. Richardson-Menefee, Arthur Sweeney, Barbara Snell-Vaughn, Bernice E. Steen, Bonnie F. Blackmon, Carmen R. Bollinger, Cynthia Shed-Long, Damian C. Anum, Dascha Y. Brooks, Deborah W. Bennett, Debra Weisberg, Denise R. Sherman, Donald Luther, Donna M. Larson, Edgar Lockett Jr., Elaine R. Magnante –Music, Elena R. Oniveros, Elzena D. Coleman, Eunice E. Kim, Eva E. Juhasz, Fariba Kooklan, Florence R. Finney, Francine Francois, Gary D. Roberts, Helen A. Le Blanc, Irene Serda, Iris R. Courtney, Isabelito Padua, Jahchurl Chen, Janice M. Epperson, Jeffrey D. Dorsey, Jesus Ramirez, Jilla O. Giattina, Johnnie Grez Jr., Judi Anne Simmons, Julie H. Nagel, Kathleen Gattuccio, Kathleen Volchko-Gallis, Kenneth R. Clemens, Kingsley O. Ogberor, Lillian M. Ennis, Lillie M. Kinchen, Lillie Perdomo, Linda Carter, Linda R. Smaul, Lonnie Wood, Lynn D. Williams, Margaret Trujillo, Maria A. Cardona, Maria Bustamante, Maria L. Rivera, Marvella K. Little, Melenie T. Avent, Meryl F. Spitzer, Michele E. Nakamura, Miriam C. Scott, Mitchell H. Mason, Noemi Ramirez, Orient Lee, Paige E. Moore, Patrice P. Webster, Patricia Hidalgo, Patricia Willems Dennis, Paul Gaeta, Paula Lewis, Pauline Au-Cheng, Percy M. LeBlanc, Phyllis W. Wilcher, Pius I. Airen, Ronald F. Rios, Ruth M. Horne, Sandra L. Book, Sanford Dunson, Sanora Smith, Sergio R. Perezcano, Sharon C. Higgins-Penn, Sheila Robinson-Jefferson, Shelia A. Jackson, Sherman Mikle, Sheryl C. Negash, Shirley A. McNeal, Susan M. Andrews, Tak W. Wong, Ted Masters, Tedjitou Dessalegn, Teresa Arevalo, Teresa M. McLaughlin, Teresa Mikle, Terry L. Straub, Thomas A. Bright, Thomas Cota Jr., Vera M. Erling, William G. Mairs, Yu Hung-Tai, Zola D. Johnson

Submissions & suggestions: please email publicaffairs@dcfs.lacounty.gov

For upcoming DCFS events, please visit the DCFS Events Calendar on LAKids