



News

Fall 2013

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



NBC's Robert Kovacik interviews Philip Browning at the St. Anne's Annual Luncheon

On November 13th, I attended St. Anne's annual luncheon where I was interviewed on stage by NBC news anchor Robert Kovacik. This was a great opportunity to let the guests at this well-attended event know about the good work and great things happening in our Department. I mentioned that we have thousands of dedicated employees that are responsible for over 35 thousand children everyday; and that while child safety is our Job One, this does not mean that our first option is to remove children from their parent's home. We keep children in their homes when it is safe to do so, but our social workers will make the difficult decision to remove a child when necessary. I ask these social workers to use their education and training, and to also pay attention if they feel something is not right.

We know that children belong in safe and loving homes and for those that are removed, more often than not, we will reunify them with their parents. I explained that there is no way a government agency can do alone what is needed to keep children safe; we are dependent on the community and agencies, like St. Anne's, to do the work that government cannot do. I emphasized that we are public servants and simply being nice to people goes a long way in helping us get our job done right. Good customer service and child safety go hand in hand.

I hope that I made clear that I am proud of the work we do and I am proud of our staff. 🍷



DCFS: The Early Years Part II

South County Regional Administrator Chuck Tadlock and DCFS Pioneer Looks Back over 47 Years



Chuck Tadlock

DCFS experienced a seismic shift around 1983. At that time 80% of the treatment cases were non-court. Subsequently, the decision was made that the court needed to be involved because our clients' legal rights needed to be protected. Suddenly, what was 20% of the treatment caseload became 95% of the caseload.

A new group of players, the attorneys, entered into this process. Now, everybody had an attorney—the parents, the children, and our Department. What had been a process of collaboration with clients, now became an often adversarial relationship with their attorneys, a philosophical rift we are still struggling with today.

In the 47 years that I've been with this Department, through it's many changes, we've probably handled close to five million child abuse referrals—a staggering number. That's one reason why I'm still hanging around. I truly believe if it were not for the efforts of our dedicated social workers, a workforce predominately female, that goes out into the community 24/7, to areas that SWAT teams are reluctant to go, the number of children in this County who would have died or been severely harmed would be huge.

Unfortunately, we are not an organization that is perceived by the community with a great deal of love. A fireman that takes a child out of a burning building is a hero. We take a child out of a dysfunctional home where

they're being abused, and we're "baby snatchers." If we leave a child in a home because we think we can work with the family, and that child is subsequently harmed, we are routinely condemned. For our staff, who are constantly being second and third-guessed by everybody in hindsight, morale can be problematic. I would not have stayed with DCFS if it were not for the work that our staff does day-to-day, which is nothing short of heroic.

I think we have been fortunate to have some extremely capable, talented, and hardworking people at the helm of our agency. The majority of our staff does not see this as a job, but rather a commitment which really makes a huge difference. I have to acknowledge past Board Supervisors for their role in supporting child protective services in this County. Kenneth Hahn, Frank Bonelli, Pete Schabaram, and Ed Edelman were outstanding proponents of child welfare.

When I talk to people who've retired, they always praise those special working relationships that enabled them to do their difficult jobs. Many nights I've seen an entire unit working together to find a placement for four or five children.

I strongly applaud Mr. Browning for doing something no other Director has done before—attempting to memorialize some of the history of this Department, in word and in pictures, so that our staff may learn about those who have come before them, the work they've done and take pride in our progress. 🍷

Department of Children's Services, Region 1, Norwalk April 10, 1986 (Chuck Tadlock bottom row center)



DCFS Simulation Labs Trains New Social Workers by Staging Real Life Situations

Beth Minor, Children Services Administrator I

Aristotle said, “For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.” The DCFS Training Section, in partnership with the University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), has put skill practice and child and worker safety front and center by implementing simulation labs to train new social workers, teaching them the necessary skills for interviewing, assessment and intervention. Research has shown that the typical material retention rate of students subjected to lectures and reading only is between five to ten percent. However, this increases to between eighty and ninety percent when students practice by doing or teaching others in simulations. “In doing the simulations myself,” said one student, “I’ve made mistakes. I take that feedback I get here and I use it in the field, so it’s definitely been helpful.”

The Department’s redesigned training emphasizes practical skill application and “teaching the work.” The “Sim Lab” experience supports this by stressing critical thinking and repetitive, professional skill practice. Learning is centered on the active participation of students; role players and trainers facilitate immediate feedback in a controlled, safe environment. Included in the trainings are law enforcement consultants, County Counsel, university faculty and Parents in Partnership (PIPs). Another student, called the training “a social work laboratory,” stating, “We have a tangible, concrete tool that we carry with us. I can’t say enough how much it’s helped me.” 🍀



From L. to R.
Misty Bautista and Janae Mankowski of DCFS



From L. to R.
Harkmore Lee, CSULA; Heidi Staples, UCLA;
Kathleen Porter, CSULB; and James Ferreira, CSULB.



From L. to R.
Susan Vu-Pritko, Beth Minor,
Michael Clark, and Mark Pitts of DCFS



From L. to R.
Donna Toulmin, USC; Misty Bautista, Janae Mankowski,
and Edmarine Edwards of DCFS

From the Basement at Edelman Court

Jim Owens, Assistant County Counsel, Dependency Division



I was asked by DCFS management to write a quarterly column to keep everyone up to date on what is going on in the court system. This is not a typical lawyer informational piece. I get those all the time, too, and the world would be much better off without adding my contribution to this august body of work. My piece will hopefully give readers some practical advice and insights into the issues we see in the trial and appellate courts.

Recently, we won a case before the California Supreme Court on the issue of whether the sexual abuse of a 14-year-old girl places her siblings at risk. The siblings are twin boys age 12, a girl age 9, and a boy age 8. The case is *In re I.J.*, and the Supreme Court upheld the juvenile court's decision to make the boys dependents of the court based on the sexual abuse of the sister. The court found that subdivision (j) was broad enough to encompass potential abuse to the male siblings, and that the abuse does not necessarily need to be the same type of abuse suffered by the sister.

To be sure this is a big win for child protective services agencies, perhaps the biggest we have had in some time. This case permits the juvenile court to exercise jurisdiction under subdivision (j) on siblings who are of a different sex than the child who was sexually molested. In the process, the Supreme Court disapproved some cases that have been thorns in our side for many years.

Good new cases are never as good as we think they are when they first come out. If there is a silver lining, bad cases are never as bad, either. This case will not ensure that we prevail all the time on the sibling issues. It does give us a big foot in the door, which we can use to protect more children than we have been able to protect in the past.

We will still need to prove risk to the siblings. Some hearing officers will buy our arguments, others will not. A good and thorough court report, which clearly articulates how the siblings at risk of physical or emotional injury, illness, or sexual abuse, will go a long way to making our case. The report should paint an accurate picture of what it is like for the children to live in the home.

A good child interview elicits all the information that the child has in his or her memory regarding what goes on in the home. As much as possible, the report should contain the child's statement in the child's words. Summaries and adult characterizations are routinely challenged by attorneys claiming that the interviewer's questions and techniques have elicited a suggested answer.

The interview and the setting should be described as well as the child's demeanor and appearance. Is the child composed, nervous, making eye contact or emotional? We anticipate the child might change his or her story. A good description of the interview will go a long way to demonstrating that the statement made to the social worker is more credible than the courtroom recantation, which can be influenced by the family pressures placed on the child.

As the first to investigate a new referral, social workers have a unique opportunity to gain the most accurate information. The interview occurs before the parties have the opportunity to reflect upon the ramifications of the disclosure and investigation. It is critical that the social worker explore every collateral contact and gain as much information as possible.

Whether any of the children witnessed the abuse, and the impact this has on a child is crucial. Problems sleeping, anxiousness, problems in school, or behavioral issues should be included in the report as these can establish an actual emotional injury. Evidence that a sibling who did not witness the abuse, but was in the home during the time, could place the child at risk because he or she could have walked in during the incident. Emotional damage can be demonstrated by fear, the need to care for or protect younger siblings, problems in school, anxiety, or emotional distress.

Good luck, try your hardest and do your best. 🍀

DCFS MART Assists in Providing Safe Home for International Sex Trafficking Victim



Emilio Mendoza, MART/Drug-Endangered Children Task Force Manager and Maria Flores, Children's Social Worker III, MART

The DCFS Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) has established working collaborations with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and their multi-jurisdictional task forces to respond to specialized high profile investigations that have a child endangerment nexus. In August 2012, DCFS MART was contacted by our FBI partners requesting assistance with a 17-year-old minor/victim who was en route from Cambodia on a humanitarian parole award after testifying against her American capture in Cambodia for sex traf-

ficking. Her history shows that she was a victim and now survivor of child trafficking since the age of 13, when her mother sold her to human traffickers.

Fearing for the minor's safety after she testified against her abductors, the FBI reached out to the DCFS-MART Team to find a stable placement for this young girl upon arrival in Los Angeles. The plan was to find a non-related extended family member approved home, under court jurisdiction, that would guarantee services for the minor until the age of 21.

MART Social Worker Maria Flores met with the child at a designated church facility where a prospective adoptive family was present along with their three other adopted children, also of Asian decent. Maria quickly established a rapport with the minor, and initiated a court petition seeking jurisdiction while attending to the minor's cultural needs. Over the next couple of weeks, Maria aligned services, sent a notice to the mother in Thailand with the assistance of World Vision representatives and foreign relations contacts in Cambodia, and worked with County Counsel to seek immediate jurisdiction before the minor turned 18 in a two-week period. Despite the short time period, Maria, with the assistance of her MART Supervisor and MART Administration, succeeded in having the minor declared a dependent of the Court a day prior to her 18th birthday!

By bringing the minor under court jurisdiction and DCFS supervision, the Department was able to address this minor's special needs enabling her to acclimate to a new family and thrive with multiple support systems in place.

A resilient youth, that recently graduated high school, she exemplifies what is possible when every facet of our system is working in the best interest of our children. 🧡

DCFS Honored at the 27th Annual Los Angeles County Productivity and Quality Awards



(Front row L. to R.) Mohammad Azad, Francesca LeRue, Shu-Jiao Lin, My Trinh, Cecilia Custodio, Xun Sun (Back row L. to R.) Harvey Kawasaki, Philip L. Browning, Steve Sturm, Tricia Denson

On Wednesday, October 17th, DCFS was honored at the 27th Annual Los Angeles County Productivity and Quality Awards for the following programs: DCFS Data Dashboard (Cecilia Custodio, My Trinh, Mohammad Azad, Shu-Jiao Lin, Xun Sun); DCFS Head Start Referral System (Steve Sturm, My Trinh); Transition Age Youth Housing Stabilization Project (Harvey Kawasaki); and The AART of Promoting Child Safety (Francesca LeReu).

Congratulations to all on your outstanding work. 🧡

The Runaway Outreach Unit: Working the Streets—Saving Our Youth

Eric Ball, DCFS Program Manager



From L. to R. is William Hailey, Children's Social Worker III (CSW III); Rochelle Horowitz, Senior Typist-Clerk; Jorge Ceron, CSW III; Eric L. Ball, Program Manager; Julie Hildreth, CSW III; Misti Ward, CSW III; Valerie Fishbain, CSW II; and Adriana Ledezma, CSW III.

The Runaway Outreach Unit's days are filled with suspense, danger, smiles and tears, but at the end of their shift, it's impossible for an ROU Children's Social Worker to go home and not feel a sense of accomplishment and pride.

"Detectives without guns" is the term used to describe the workers in the program—not because they are in anyway punitive or penal in their work, but because they are diligent in their quest to leave no leaf unturned in their efforts to locate, place and stabilize our lost and abandoned minors.

Domestic trafficked youths as young as nine years of age, mentally-challenged minors at the end of their rope, substance dependent kids looking for a way to right their ship, and gang-involved youngsters wishing things were different are just a few examples of the population serviced by this unit. The hardworking ROU team of social workers are dedicated, passionate, and will pursue any and all leads to secure a child's safety.

This cutting-edge program is newly transitioned into the Bureau of Specialized Response Services, under the tutelage of Deputy Director Roberta Medina. It serves as a national model for any social welfare agency striving to build trust and rapport with an often overlooked, disenfranchised adolescent population. Teaming with primary case-carrying social workers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders, the ROU conducts extensive social networking investigations, bridging the gap in service delivery with teens who often want no involvement with foster care or the dependency system.

With caseloads ranging up to seventy five per worker, ROU staff focus on getting the job done and ensuring that children are safe. These six child welfare professionals put it on the line every day risking their lives by knocking on the same doors that even the most seasoned law enforcement officials avoid. The statistics speak for themselves; the ROU program has transitioned over 2,000 youth back into care and has reduced the department's runaway recidivism by over 20% over the past 5 years.

The ROU Staff are "saving the world one youth at a time." 🌹



SHARE YOUR HEART...SHARE YOUR HOME

Become a Resource Parent (Foster/Adoptive Parent)

1-888-811-1121

Visit our website: ShareYourHeartLa.org

Since 2002, Over 100 Safely Surrendered Babies Have Been Adopted



Dina Stuhl, Children Services Administrator I, DCFS Adoption and Permanency Resources Division

Since 2001, the Safely Surrender Baby (SSB) program, has provided parents in crisis with an alternative to abandoning their newborn. This program, the by-product of former State Senator Jim Brulte's SB 1368, was instituted to prevent the needless deaths of abandoned newborns by making it legal to surrender a non-abused infant, under 72 hours of age, to a hospital emergency room or a designated fire station. The bill included a 14-day "cooling-off" period in which the parent(s) could come back to reclaim the child by showing the ID bracelet they received at the hospital matching the one placed on their infant. The parent is encouraged but is not required to complete a medical history questionnaire that is provided to the new adoptive family.

In 2001, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe called upon the courts, fire department officials and hospital staff to meet with DCFS to determine how the new law could best succeed in LA County. When a baby is not surrendered at a hospital, the staff from the surrender site takes the baby to the nearest hospital and DCFS is contacted. The Emergency Response Command Post notifies several parties of the surrender, including the Adoption Division's Placement and Recruitment Unit (PRU). The PRU identifies an approved and waiting adoptive family with whom the newborn is placed upon discharge from the hospital. The child's ongoing casework is handled by the DCFS Sensitive Case Unit

Since 2002, 111 adoptions of Safely Surrendered infants have been finalized; ten more are currently in the process of being adopted. Twelve infants have been reunified with their parents who sought to reclaim their child.

In efforts to spread the word about the Safe Surrender program, all county vehicles have Safe Surrender bumper stickers advertising the symbol of hands holding an infant and the toll-free number (877) BABY-SAFE. By calling LA County's Resource line, 211, the caller can be directed to the closest Safe Surrender site (often a fire station) to their location. 🇺🇸

National Youth In Transition Database (NYTD) Survey for DCFS Foster Youth

Otho Day, Children Services Administrator III, DCFS Youth Development Services

Starting October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, every foster youth in out-of-home care will be given the opportunity at age 17 to complete an important NYTD survey that provides federally required information regarding each youth's description of their current independent living skills sets. DCFS will continue to provide funding to meet self-sufficiency supportive needs of our youth. An incentive check of \$50 will be paid to every youth who timely completes the survey.

The Youth Development Services Division will ensure the highest rate of survey compliance, providing guidelines to social workers on the distribution and collection of youth completed surveys during monthly placement visits.

Social workers: Please make sure that your youth complete this survey within 45 days of their 17th birthday. If you have any questions, please email Otho Day, CSA III, at dayo@dcfs.lacounty.gov. 🇺🇸



Coming soon:

Case-carrying CSWs will be able to request a Lenovo ThinkPad X230t Tablet PC.

For more information and to read what CSWs are saying visit:
<http://lakids.dcfslacounty.gov/dcfsl/BISCS2012/lenovo/index.aspx>

It's more than a map. It's the road to keeping more children safe.



Let us help you navigate the real roadblocks you face everyday. Spend more time in the community and less time on logistics. Access your desktop and CWS/CMS in the field with a Lenovo Tablet PC.



Increase child safety



Improve overall service to families



Easy information sharing for CSW's



More effective case management

○ Simplify the family interview process

Now you can ensure that case records are accurate, detailed and based on recent impressions.

○ Streamline your data entry process

Enter your notes only once, keep all your details in one place, and employ paperless business practices.

○ Connect to more current, comprehensive information

Share data among CSW's and create better records for future investigations.

○ Invest less time on court related logistics

Complete court reports in a more timely way and decrease court sanctions.

○ Benefit from improved case management

Reduce and manage your workload more effectively.

○ Boost overall agency performance

Increase job satisfaction and expand your presence in the community.

○ Use your time more effectively

Connect to the internet, your desktop and CWS/CMS from a homecall, caregiver's, schools, medical hubs and hospitals, Children's Court, community agencies, law enforcement sites – and anywhere else in the field.



For more information, training and support, please go to:
[Lenovo Tablet page on Computer Support site on LA Kids](#)

The Social (Worker) Network



Natalie Stewart, Children's Social Worker III, receiving a Family Reunification Hero scroll from Supervisor Don Knabe

The Board of Supervisor proclaimed the week of September 16th as 2013 Family Reunification Week, celebrating the thousands of families that DCFS safely reunites with their children each year. From 2003 through 2012, more than 58,000 children were reunified with their families in Los Angeles County, an average of nearly 6,000 children a year. As part of the celebration, six Family Reunification Week "Heroes" were honored by the Board, among them DCFS Permanency Partner Program CSW Natalie Stewart, who was recognized for her outstanding efforts in locating relatives and reestablishing family connections for a young girl. Natalie strongly advocated for a mother every step of the way resulting in a joyous reunification last year. 🍷

Cassandra McKinley, Children's Social Worker III

Shortly after parental rights were terminated for a set of twins who were placed in the home of prospective adoptive parents, the biological father appealed and his parental rights were reinstated. CSW Cassandra McKinley assessed the situation, conferred with her managers and, ultimately, recommended that the children should remain in the adoptive home. Cassandra helped the adoptive family through what turned out to be a difficult two year process. The adoptive father spoke with DCFS Director Philip Browning to praise the outstanding support provided by CSW McKinley. Great work Cassandra! 🍷



(From L. to R.) Emergency Response Children's Social Worker Fran Quiroga-Colon and Continuing Services Assistant Regional Administrator Preston Oppenheimer

On August 14th, the West and East San Fernando Valley DCFS offices hosted their first Community Resource Fair with over 32 agencies and more than 200 employees in attendance. The day proved to be a great success with DCFS staffers and community providers exchanging valuable information to expand service options for our clients. The community providers will be making monthly visits to our offices to keep everyone updated on new developments. The West and East San Fernando Valley offices are already strategizing on how to improve next year's event. 🍷

(From L. to R.) DCFS South County Teen Club Coordinator, Adela Estrada; DCFS Child Welfare Health Services (CWHHS) Program Manager, Donna Fernandez; Ryann Blackshere of Fostering Media Connections; and Kristine Grush, CSA I

On October 1st, Fostering Media Connections, an organization that utilizes journalism and media to promote foster care issues, engaged foster youth members from the DCFS South County Teen Club in a "Summer Talk Series." DCFS South County Teen Club coordinator Adela Estrada worked with DCFS Health Services managers Donna Fernandez and Kristine Grush and Fostering Media Connections' Ryann Blackshere to gather the youth for this positive discussion. About 25 South County teens were on hand and had an open, supportive and non-threatening talk about relationships, risky behavior, peer pressure and keeping yourself safe and healthy. The teens gave the discussion high marks. 🍷



Continued on page 10

The Social (Worker) Network *Continued from page 9*



On August 10th, as part of the DCFS Wellness Program to promote healthy physical activity, the DCFS Softball Team battled the Superior Court of Long Beach for the LA County Softball Tournament Championship at Wilson Park in Torrance. Captained by Emergency Response Supervising Children’s Social Worker José Parada and led by Saul Gomez’s two home runs, the DCFS squad kept it close, but ultimately lost 11 runs to 8. In the first round of competition, DCFS defeated the Board of Supervisors’ Executive Office behind the stellar defensive play of Ricardo Fernandez and Javier Oliva. We can’t wait till next year! 🍀

(Center kneeling): *Saul Gomez;*
 (2nd row, L. to R.) *Lisette Ruggiero, Javier Oliva, Jose Parada, Patricia De Santiago, Christine Mariano, Lorena Gonzalez*
 (Back row, L. to R.) *Philip Browning, Candice Obiliana, Robert Varela, Ricardo Fernandez, Marc Williams, J.P. Ruggiero*
 (not pictured: *Robert Hill and Denise Thompson*)

Ian Rosen, Children’s Social Worker III



Throughout a recent difficult and demanding case, West San Fernando Valley CSW Ian Rosen was steadfast in his commitment to keeping the focus on the best interest and safety of the family’s children. Ian conducted thorough investigations and made many collateral contacts. He was especially sensitive to the children’s needs, allowing them to express themselves in their own way. Following the close of the case, one parent wrote: “Ian refused to back off from such a highly disputed and conflict-ridden custody case. I have heard negative reviews of the performance by DCFS... This has been so far from my situation, that I am unable to express my gratitude to its fullest in words. After experiencing such an amazing rescue by this organization, I truly believe that they are the best governmental agency in the country. Thank you DCFS.” Good work, Ian! 🍀



For twenty years, the “Spark of Love” Toy Drive has provided Los Angeles County foster youth with gifts to make their holidays brighter. Last year, ABC7, the Children’s Trust Fund, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Metrolink collected and distributed over 46,000 toys throughout the community. To learn more on how you can help visit: childrenstrustfund.net and click on “Events Now.” **To donate a new toy or sports equipment visit your local LA County Fire Station November 17th - December 24th.** 🍀



My TURN

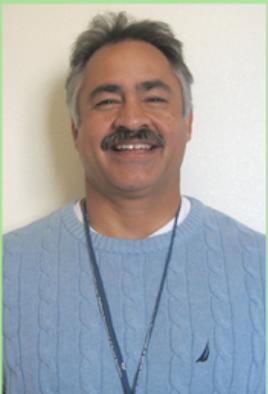


Like many of you, I am balancing life. I am a mother, wife, daughter, sister, community volunteer, and employee. What I love most about my job is that no two days are the same. Now at Glendora, I absolutely love my job as an Emergency Response Social Worker. I help empower families, keep children safe, and provide valuable resources to families while being DCFS’s gatekeeper for the intensive service needs for families in crisis. The job as first responders is difficult, however I love making a difference in the lives of children and making our communities stronger by gifting families with skills to be better parents and citizens. ❤️

LaLisa C. Morgan, Children’s Social Worker III, Glendora

When I first came to DCFS, I was welcomed with open arms and provided a stress-free work environment, however, I did notice that some people may have had some previously determined stereotype of veterans. I look forward to help changing these impressions. Veterans are hard-working, moral, driven, and thoughtful individuals and the more our staff come to know us, the more they will realize that we are just like them—dedicated to helping our children and families. I hope to see more proud veterans enter the DCFS Veteran Intern Program as they truly can be an asset for us. They have fought to protect the homeland; now they should be given the opportunity to make their contributions in the Los Angeles community, which is exactly what we do here at DCFS. ❤️

Dennis Yi, Veteran Intern Clerk, Bureau of Finance & Administration



Among the many salient cultural shifts that we need to make, one of the most important is the need to establish a clear and unshakeable nexus between child welfare and social worker welfare; flip sides of the same coin. It simply doesn’t exist. We routinely overlook, ignore or act with cruel indifference concerning the welfare of our colleagues. I see it happen all the time over and over. It’s a significant factor as to why we continue to lose folks at an alarming rate, with no end in sight. Of course everyone, management included, is feeling under the gun with extraordinary, unrelenting demands. But because this nexus does not exist, we think that we can keep pushing folks well beyond their ability to function and maintain their own emotional/physical/spiritual wellbeing and psychological equilibrium. Getting people to care and prioritize the welfare of their subordinates when their bosses are breathing down their necks for numbers/stats, is no easy fix. Attitudes, values and ethics, with a healthy serving of fear, are complex areas to address. ❤️

(Editor's Note: The attrition rate for DCFS employees is a low 2.2% overall and 3.4% for social workers.)

Jerry Dominguez, Children’s Social Worker III, Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services

I’ve been with the Department for 28 plus years and being such a large department; communication is really a must and necessary for all employees. In my opinion email is used in place of speaking and saying what you need and/or mean face-to-face. Email is needed for various reasons, however, a computer can only convey (in word) not expression or expressing the content of a message. Emailing is misused and with the wrong message can cause unpleasantness. Again, communication is the key in any situation and technology can’t catch everything. Computers were created for a lot of reasons; let’s really think about why and what we are emailing in our messages to each other. It starts with you and me. The safety of children is our first priority in working with the Department of Children and Family Services. Staff, remember to encourage each other and remember we come from all walks of life, so respect ourselves and reach one another with kindness. ❤️

Faye Canada, Secretary II, Contract Services



THE LAST WORD



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District



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Dominique Robinson
Elizabeth Orozco
Donnetta Baker
Richard Cervantes

Recent Director's Employee Recognition Award Winners

Outstanding Support Service Staff



Jennifer Balvaneda
Intermediate Typist-Clerk
Kinship Support

Special Meritorious Award



John Johnston
Transportation Worker
Juvenile Court Services

Special Meritorious Award
Christopher Pichardo
Children's Social Worker III
El Monte Office
(Photo not available)

Outstanding Direct Service Staff
Brenda Fox
Children's Social Worker III
Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP)
(Photo not available)

DCFS Workers Recently Celebrating Years of County Service

25 years of service - Angela Bowie, Bertha Parra, Bindu Vohra, Blas Cabanban, Brian Howard, Cynthia Stokes, Edward Gallardo, Evangeline Villanueva, Francesca Le Rue, Joseph Hanes, Leticia Castro, Lupe Porter, Lydia Bueno, Lynn Durham, Martha Styles, Mei-Lin Ma, Mercedes Webb, Mervat Farag, Nelson Sanchez, Sara Paez, Patricia Candy, Patrice Scott, Pearl Ferguson, Perla Aquino, Rebecca Estrada, Rose Witt, Sandy Hamilton, Sharon Koga, Sullivan Smith.

30 years of service - Donald Luther, Hector Fregoso, James Vasquez, John Harris, Marion Murray-Grant, Mark Miller.

35 years of service - Alyce Beard, Betty Maxwell, Edyth Yates Redmond, Kathryn Nave-Elliott, Lorraine Abasta, Norma Nieto, Patricia Colbert-Ramos, Patricia Griffin, Paula Lewis, Rosalind Davis, Socorro Scala, Susie Quon, Vetia Perkins.

40 years of service - Alleaner Ward, Annette Quarles, Selena Mc Curdy.

45 years of service - Helen Le Blanc, Patrice Webster, Rosalind Pillars, Sharyn Dent-Bray.

Congratulations to Recent DCFS Retirees

Ann Noble Johnson, Arelene Moeller, Arthur King, Carmen Jenkinson, Crystal Huang, Donn Andrew, Ester Price, Janice Damiano, Jill Calmese, Joy Young, Laura Telles, Lilia Lacanilao, Maria Wiley, Mary Frances, Mitra Khorvash, Rose Witt, Rosemary Osuna, Saren Ath, Sharon Koga, Simin Dailey, Susie Stangeland, Teresita Cruz, Victoria Heasley.