



# News

Spring/Summer 2013

**Philip L. Browning**  
Director

**Fesia A. Davenport**  
Chief Deputy Director

**Brandon Nichols**  
Senior Deputy Director

**Cynthia McCoy-Miller**  
Senior Deputy Director

**Helen Berberian**  
Executive Assistant

**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**  
Bureau of Clinical Resources  
and Services

**Dawna Yokoyama**  
Deputy Director  
Service Bureau 2

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I invite you to read this edition of DCFS News. In this issue, we are fortunate to have our in-house historian and Regional Administrator Chuck Tadlock recall how our Department came into being. Chuck has a unique perspective on the early years of DCFS that I think you will appreciate. He's witnessed the growing pains that a department as large as ours, tasked with such a critical mission, inevitably must endure. I thank him for taking the time out of his busy schedule to help us take a look back. It's important to understand our history as it so often provides direction for our future. Where we've been as a Department reminds us of the primary issues that prompted Los Angeles County to establish a child protective service agency. The focus, then as it is now, has always been on child safety. As we review the path we've taken, we can have a clearer vision of how we want to proceed.

The practice of child welfare is an evolving process; by being open to change we improve our work. Part of the improvement/change process involves

ongoing dialogue between management and staff. I encourage you to freely express concerns that you may have that will enhance how we protect our children and families. I need to hear from you, the line and supporting staff, about what problems you are experiencing while doing your job. Within this issue you will find a new feature entitled "My Turn," allowing individual voices from around DCFS to speak directly to the reader. This is a forum for you to share with your colleagues and the community your thoughts on how we do our work, what you are most proud of and what you feel needs to be done differently. There is no need to speak with one voice, but we all need to have the same purpose: protecting children from abuse and neglect. This issue also highlights the good work we are doing as a Department and has many stories and photos of our fine employees accomplishing great things as individuals and as teams. There is no job in Los Angeles County more important than your job. Everyday we protect children from further abuse, make broken families whole again, and change lives in the process. I can't thank you enough for the great job you're doing. ❤️

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# DCFS: The Early Years

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



Chuck Tadlock circa 1985

Charles “Chuck” Tadlock, who currently is the DCFS Regional Administrator over Continuing Services for the South County and Torrance offices, started working for Los Angeles County on September 2, 1965—that’s forty seven years and nine months, if you’re counting. In this 2-part series, Chuck

recalls, in his own words, the early years of our Department and the changes he has witnessed in the decades that followed.

“What later became DCFS was then known as the Los Angeles County Department of Charities. Soon after applying for a position as a social worker, I was told to report to the Cudahy welfare office to deliver emergency grocery orders for the destitute community in the violent aftermath of the Watts riots.

This proved to be a real “eye-opener.” In almost every home I visited, I noticed a shrine with pictures of Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, and Bobby Kennedy—who represented for our clients hope and the possibility for a better life. In those days, we worked as both social worker and eligibility worker.

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Child Support Services, Mental Health Services and what was known as Child Welfare Services were all under the Department of Charities.

In 1967, I was drafted into the Army and when I returned in 1969, the Department of Charities had become DPSS.

A group of concerned citizens, led by Helen Kleinberg, Nancy Daily Reardon, and Henry Winkler, felt there was insufficient focus on child welfare services as long as the Department was under the umbrella of DPSS. This group strongly advocated for a separate Department dedicated to child protective services.

Board Supervisor Ed Edelman championed the cause as did DPSS Division Chief Carlos Sosa.

In October 1984, Lola Hobbs was appointed the first DCS (Department of Children’s Services) Director. She served briefly until Robert Chafee, a DPSS Deputy Director took over in April 1985. Mr. Chafee was not a child welfare expert, but he understood the County, the Chief Administrator Office, the budget process, and knew how to work with the Board to get additional resources that this Department needed to function.

Prior to 1984, child welfare services was a very small operation with four regions under a Division Chief, reporting to Bureau Director Don Galloway. Staff was co-located in eight to ten offices with DPSS, in the Bureau of Public Assistance, which subsequently became the Bureau of Social Services. Back in those days, we probably had 1,000 to 1,500 staff with maybe 800 to 900 social workers.

In the early days, caseloads were extremely high on the treatment side—probably somewhere between 60 and 100 cases with no specific limit. Once the staff started unionizing, these numbers came into line.

Everything back then was manual; there were no computers. You wrote your contacts, and impressions on what was known as a PA 40 form. Upon returning to the office, you dictated your notes and forms on a transcribing machine, which was then typed by clerical support staff.

I recall in the 60’s and 70’s, it was not unusual to review information going back 30 and 40 years as you were dealing with generations of families. We were always instructed to read the entire case from page one to the most recent notation. Because of today’s frenetic pace, workers will maybe look at the last six months of case history. This is why P3 workers are so helpful; in reviewing those cases going back years, maybe decades; they’ve been successful in locating lost family members and relatives”.

To be continued...  
(In the Fall issue)

# Parents in Partnership (PIP): “We’ve been where you are.”



(From L. to R.) Parents and DCFS Staff: Viviana Ayala (DCFS), Jennifer Olague, Maritza Rosales, Anna Holzner (DCFS), Ryan Bennett, Axa Cazzaly (DCFS), Andrea Miles, Roxanna Flores-Aguilar (DCFS), Judy Freeman (DCFS), Derek Perez-Johnson, Maria Santo-Angulo, Nina Powell-McCall (DCFS), Maureen Donohue (DCFS).

The Parents in Partnership (PIP) motto is “We’ve been where you are.” This parent engagement program, initiated in 2006, with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, currently employs 40 “Parent Partners” in 12 DCFS offices, bridging the gap between DCFS and parents. Parent partners, also known as PIPs, are parents who were formerly involved with DCFS and successfully reunified with their children. Their mission: “In collaboration with DCFS, we will use our experiences to help support, educate, and empower parents in their efforts to reunify with their children.”

PIPs help parents navigate the often complicated dependency court system, sharing their personal stories through “warm lines,” outreach, DCFS orientation presentations, and by providing support in Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings and parent support groups. PIPs work in DCFS offices and

lobbies, a wide range of community agencies, and are expanding their work to include mothers incarcerated in Lynwood.

During a TDM, Parent Partner Millie Sallie found shelter for a panicked mother with seven children the day before their eviction. PIP Cynthia Harback shares her past as a domestic violence victim to help mothers start new, safe lives with their children. PIPs like Monica Matthews and Ambyr Rose share their experiences of growing up in the foster care system. PIPs with histories of substance abuse are in a unique position to reach our many parents struggling with addiction. Because PIPs understand what our clients are going through, they can effectively confront parents and help guide them toward recovery to reclaim their lives and families, free from addiction.

Parent Partners also share their unique insights with prospective resource foster and adoptive families to facilitate a better understanding of our parents’ perspectives. In 2012, PIPs participated in 21 caregiver training classes. Northwest Media and UCLA Training, Intervention, Education and Services for Adoption recently filmed a training video featuring PIPs Jennifer Olague and Justo Padilla for resource families nationwide. Parent Partner Ryan Bennett also filmed a video for Koinoinia Family Services.

For additional information, please contact: Program Director, Nina Powell-McCall at [poweln@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:poweln@dcfs.lacounty.gov). 🍷



DCFS Charitable Giving Coordinator Tricia Denson (pictured left), and Senior Deputy Director Cynthia McCoy-Miller holding the donation thermometer indicating that we reached our \$25,000 goal!!!



Kudos to Team DCFS! Thanks to your unwavering support and generous contributions we met this year’s goal of \$25,000! At the March for Babies walk, held on Saturday, April 27th, Team DCFS had 34 walkers paced by DCFS Director Philip Browning. DCFS staff who walked and sponsored others raised over \$6,000. You are the KEY to our success! Funds raised go towards research offering prevention and solutions for babies born too soon or with birth defects. GO PHENOMENAL TEAM DCFS!!! 🍷



First Row (From L. to R): Maya Fonseca (DCFS Ambassador Baby) and LeBron Hasan  
Second Row: Althira “Cookie” Nellum, Glenda Fonseca, Vonciele Perez-Ocasio  
Third Row: Fesia Davenport, Dawna Yokoyama, Vicki Moore, Borina Nou, Belen Navarro, and Gracie Vera  
Fourth row: Philip L. Browning, and Cynthia McCoy-Miller

# 2013 National Social Work Month



*Bottom Row (Left to Right): Yolanda Hilario, Sonny U. Okereke, Jameelah Vernon-Lewis, Sandra Sharma, Carolyn Anthony, Heidi Yen, Ozehni Amirdzhanyan, Lisa Juarez, Asia Tolossa*  
*Second Row (Left to Right): Krystal Boulden, Leticia Ozaeta, Toi Murray, Chhoun Sen, Laura Kim, Nancy Ramirez, Maria Garcia, Cecilia Saco, Philip L. Browning, Michelle Aguilar, Rita Gotoh-Chavez, Cynthia Rivera, Adriana Rivera, Max Ramirez*  
*Top Row (Left to Right): Ivory Bragg, Kahina Kaci, Shannon O'Brien, Shannon O'Brien, Corina Carmona, Dawn Fleming, Iris Aguirre, Mary Lester, Cynthia Jackson, Stacy Pipes, Timothy Anyanwu, Mark Grinenk*

On March 21st, DCFS Director Philip Browning hosted a luncheon for 36 social workers to celebrate 2013 National Social Work Month. Each social worker received a specially-designed scroll bearing the name of their office and/or section to be prominently displayed in their workplace. The scroll states: "In recognition of National Social Work Month, I hereby commend the staff of the Department of Children and Family Services for their outstanding service, commitment, and dedication to the children and families we serve. I greatly appreciate the hard work, customer service, camaraderie and can-do spirit exemplified by the women and men of this Department. Yours is lifesaving work. I salute you for your excellence and for ensuring that child safety is job one. Keep up the good work." 🌸



## LA County's New Soccer Champs!

Team DCFS Takes Championship Title on May 18th at LA County Soccer Tournament with 3 – 0 win over DPSS.

*Front row (Left to Right): Jessica Parrilla; Alex Alvarez, Ariel Urbina; Jesse Moreno; Javier Oliva; Michael Rauso (Captain)*

*Back row (Left to Right): Amy Witt; Robert Padilla; Brenda Perez Ochoa; Brett Neller (Co-Captain); Carlos Leon; Diego Santander; Rodrigo Santander*



*(From L. to R.) Kristine Grush, Children Services Administrator I (CSA); Donna Fernandez, CSA III, Program Manager and Perla Campos, Eligibility Worker II*

## New Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) Website

The Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services has launched their new informative Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) Website on LAKids. The site provides social workers with a wealth of resources available to pregnant and parenting teens on their caseloads, as well as, information on pregnancy prevention and reproductive health. Site resources include DCFS policies, placement options for pregnant and parenting youth, instructions on scheduling PPT conferences, educational and childcare options, parenting suggestions, and information on reproductive health options. Please take time to explore the PPT Website. If you have questions, please call Donna Fernandez at (213) 351-5714 or email [fernadc@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:fernadc@dcfs.lacounty.gov) 🌸



# My TURN



Society does not expect doctors to cure every disease or for no one to die on the operating table. No one expects the police to predict when and where a murder will take place and prevent it from happening. These expectations are accepted as unreasonable. When it comes to social workers, this “reasonableness” seems not to apply. The expectation is that social workers will somehow predict the future and guarantee that no child that we have ever come in contact with will ever die. Until this unreasonable expectation is successfully challenged, and social workers are held to the same expectations that our brothers and sisters are held to in other helping professions, we will always be judged as incompetent. We are all dedicated to trying to do as much as possible to make the number of child fatalities as small as possible, but it will never be zero. 🍷

-Rodney Loudon II, Supervising Children’s Social Worker, West San Fernando Valley

“Respect, service, human relationships...” These are a few code of ethics social workers breathe, eat, and live by. The media outlines the department’s challenges but how often is DCFS recognized when a social worker saves a child’s life? A social worker once told me how he persisted on having a child re-examined by medical professionals for a bump on his head. It was the workers dedication and work ethic that saved that child’s life. Do you remember reading about this story? I am saddened by the recent news in the media, but I am also saddened that the media and society overlook the department’s positive stories. In hopes of the media/society having a better perspective on social work, I encourage professionals who are working with the oppressed and vulnerable to keep in mind that not only is this is our job, but that this is someone else’s life. 🍷

-Nelli Oganesyanyan, Children’s Social Worker, Child Protection Hotline



Spring is here; with promises filled with hope and happiness for everyone. We at DCFS are fortunate to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children who might have missed the arrival of the spring in their lives. It gives me a great pleasure to be a member of the dedicated team poised and eager to facilitate change and enrich children’s lives for the better by providing the needed services. When we arrive at our desks each morning, our personal life challenges are put in perspective, compared to the challenges that the children are facing everyday in our community. We mix dedicated work with laughter and camaraderie, to find solutions in our children’s lives so spring will return in their lives with hope for a brighter future. 🍷

-Loreta Sirakian, Senior Secretary, Bureau of the Clinical Resources and Services

Why are social workers never regarded as heroes? Law enforcement is praised when they take criminals off the street; firefighters are recognized for saving a family from a burning home; the military is honored for fighting for our freedom and teachers are applauded for teaching a child how to read. Taking a child out of a dangerous home environment where they are being mistreated, sexually abused, or not being fed is no small task. Instead of being praised, Children’s Social Workers get negative media attention and are blamed for not being able to predict the future, which results in unfair discipline action. What we do get is illness due to stress, sleepless nights and a heavy caseload to look forward to. Children’s Social Workers risk their safety each day when we enter homes to investigate abuse or neglect without the safety of a partner. I hope one day society acknowledges how important social workers are. Have you hugged a Children’s Social Worker today? 🍷

-Raul Perez, Children’s Social Worker III, ERCP



# The Social (Worker) Network



*Cynthia Counts, Medical Case Management Services (MCMS) Children's Social Worker*

Not too long ago, six-year old David led a very restricted life. He suffered brain trauma, developmental delays, required a tracheal and gastric tube, was wheelchair-bound, and living in a special care facility. Children's Social Worker **Cynthia Counts** was able to convince one of David's recreational advisors to consider adopting one of the many special needs youth she worked with, recognizing that she would make a great parent.. Ultimately, she chose to adopt David. Even though David was on another worker's caseload, Cynthia worked closely with the prospective adoptive mother, providing support throughout the adoption process. Since the adoption was finalized, David's life has dramatically turned around for the better. He is now walking, able to write his own name and has received an award from his elementary school. David's adoptive mother inspired several other professionals to adopt our special needs children, including two on

Cynthia's caseload. Cynthia continues to support David's adoptive mother, while guiding her friends and colleagues through the adoption process. Cynthia feels David's success reflects a total team effort provided by the "super" MCMS staff. 🧡

*Raymond Fountain, Supervising Children's Social Worker*

Last year, SCSW **Raymond Fountain** saved a DCFS social worker from injury or worse when he confronted a mugger who had snuck up behind a co-worker worker leaving the Child Protection Hotline office after midnight. Although there are posted security guards in the building and across the street, they were not present as his co-worker, burdened with several bags, was making her way to her car. Suddenly, an unidentified man came out of the dark right behind her—his intent obvious. Raymond Fountain, a solid 6-foot, 2-inch Vietnam Vet, was walking nearby and immediately made his presence known, scaring off the would be assailant. A highly respected SCSW in his office, Raymond inspires us all by risking his own personal safety to ensure the safety of a vulnerable co-worker. Raymond is the first recipient of the Director's Special Meritorious Service Award. 🧡



*(From L. to R.) Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby, Xiomara Flores-Holguin, SCSW and William T Fujioka, LA County, Chief Executive Officer*

Xiomara has tirelessly promoted our social workers and our good work as an ever-ready ambassador to the media and the community. Xiomara embodies the dedication and love for children that is essential to our work. Congratulations Xiomara! 🧡

DCFS Supervising Children's Social Worker **Xiomara Flores-Holguin** was recently honored at the 28th Annual Women of the Year event presented by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. She was nominated by a community leader for the tremendous goodwill Xiomara has forged with law enforcement throughout the County resulting in coordinated services to protect children—most notably through Xiomara's pioneering work with our Multi-Agency Response Team. Beyond that,

*(From L. to R.) Charlene Robinson, Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA); Carlos Torres, ARA; Mitch Mason, Regional Administrator (RA); Frank Ramos, RA; Olivia James, ARA; Maricruz Treviño, ARA; Javier Oliva, ARA; Faye Mitchell, ARA and Gary Burks, ARA*



In February, the **DCFS Broadway Office**, which includes the Child Protection Hotline, Metro North and Emergency Response Command Post, hosted a "tasting" celebration featuring traditional African-American dishes to commemorate Black History Month. The menu featured delicious fried chicken, greens, and peach cobbler. On display were pictures of historic black leaders including President Barack Obama, civil rights leaders, and inventors. Over one hundred staffers from all three divisions attended, and each was provided handouts on Black history with an original poem written especially for the celebration. 🧡

*Continued on page 7*



(From L.to R.) Muzeyyen Balaban, RA; Virginia Culbertson, SCSW; Robin Younger-Holmes, ARA; Ed Sosa, RA; Gail Bardin, Trula Worthy-Clayton (All Saints Church), Roxanne Chue, SCSW; Jeanette Mann, Sid O'Connell, Pamela Wilson (All Saints Church).

On May 9th, the **DCFS Pasadena Office**, in partnership with Pasadena's **All Saints Church**, celebrated the grand opening of their new family visitation center. The family-friendly, newly-painted room, complete with new furniture, books and toys, allows for more intimate and comfortable visits between parents and children, a crucial component in facilitating successful family reunification. The All Saints Church Foster Care Project recruits church volunteers to monitor parents' visits with their children. This successful collaboration hopes to establish additional visitation centers in the Pasadena area. 🌸

A probation youth, about to turn 18, had few prospects for permanency. Relatives living in northern California were interested in adopting the youth, but there had only been two previous DCFS probation adoptions and procedures for out-of-county adoptions complicated the matter. Adoption Children's Social Worker **Chung Kim** and Supervising Children's Social Worker **Feli Gutierrez** worked closely with Probation, Court, the Alliance for Children's Rights and a private adoption agency that conducted the home study in northern California. The adoption was finalized just nine days before the youth's 18th birthday! This was Los Angeles County's 3rd probation adoption finalization, the 7th in the nation. At court there were 50 attendees present from all the agencies involved to celebrate this momentous occasion. The birth mother was also present, happy for the opportunities that the new adoptive parents could provide her son. The young man expressed his devotion to his mother and his gratitude to his new adoptive parents—all the while holding on to both their hands. There wasn't a dry eye in the court room and the happiest person present was the newly adopted youth. Congratulations to Feli and Chung for their conscientious efforts in finalizing this probation adoption. 🌸



SCSW Feli Gutierrez and CSW Chung Kim

For her excellent social work in supporting her client, Glendora CSW **Adaoha Mbaruguru** was awarded a commendation by Judge Amy Pellman.. At a court hearing at which jurisdiction was terminated, a mother stated that CSW Mbaruguru made a great impact in her life when she felt worthless and that her life was over. Said the mother, "Her words of encouragement made me believe in myself again." The mother praised Ms. Mbaruguru's great people and communication skills and stated that her co-workers could learn a great deal from her. "I will never forget how she helped me and made a big difference, not only in my life, but in my children's lives as well." Congratulations Adaoha! 🌸



Adaoha Mbaruguru, Children's Social Worker

On June 12th, friends and colleagues joined together to celebrate the career of Palmdale Regional Administrator **Rick Bryant**. Rick retired after 37 years of dedicated public service. After joining DCFS from the Probation Department in 1982, Rick served the Antelope Valley as an Emergency Response Worker, Family Maintenance/Family Reunification CSW, Dependency Investigator, SCSW and Assistant Regional Administrator. As Rick was instrumental in establishing community partnerships throughout the High Desert area. Though his leadership will be sorely missed, we wish him well as he pursues his passions for fishing and photography full time. 🌸



Rick Bryant, Recently Retired Palmdale Regional Administrator

# DCFS Navy Veteran Honored by Veteran's Administration



(L. to R.) Jonathan Gorospe, Administrative Services Manager III; Wanda Hazel, Departmental Human Resources Manager III; Jose Flores, Intermediate Clerk; and Philip L. Browning, DCFS Director.

Jose Michael Flores is a disabled veteran who served in the United States Navy for 6 years on the USS Enterprise. Since leaving the service, he has come across many veterans who struggle with homelessness, unemployment, depression, PTSD, and substance abuse. Jose decided to help provide veterans with the necessary resources to lead a productive life, for themselves, their families and loved ones, who also have been affected in some way. Jose attended group sessions and classes at Veterans Affairs (VA) in Westwood. In June, the VA honored Jose for his contributions and support to veterans. Jose feels obligated to help any veteran who has proudly served this country and wants to acknowledge the many who have given their lives. Jose came to DCFS through the Veteran Intern Program which he completed in November 2012. He is now a permanent employee working in the Personnel Processing Section at DCFS headquarters and is looking to advance his career. 🇺🇸



Lawrence Moch,  
Supervising Children's Social Worker

## iPhones modernizing workflow at DCFS



by Paula Boyd, DCFS Business Information Systems, [boydpa@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:boydpa@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

The rollout of iPhones at DCFS is boosting the efficiency and productivity of Children's Social Workers (CSWs) and their supervisors. This emerging technology represents a new approach to help CSWs manage workloads and have more time to successfully ensure child safety and preserve families. Today, more than ever, CSWs need access to information in real time. Our social workers use their iPhones to document contacts, capturing complete and up-to-date information in CWS/CMS. CSWs interact remotely with their colleagues and supervisors, and communicate with their clients using phone, text, email, photos and video.

Lawrence Moch, SCSW with the Medical Case Management Services unit in the Torrance DCFS office says, "The iPhone is unbelievable! Everything that is in my Outlook Mail, Calendar, Contacts and Tasks appears in my iPhone and can be remotely accessed at the touch of a finger. My unit has seen an improved performance, particularly in the area of obtaining photos of children and documenting child contacts in a timely manner."

"Service Employees International Union (SEIU) appreciates the commitment DCFS Director Philip Browning and the Executive Management Team have made in implementing emerging technology that supports workers to do best practice social work," said David Green, CSW, DCFS Metro North office and SEIU Executive Board Member and Treasurer.

Learn how to use an iPhone to digitize what you verbalize (use voice-only) to document your contacts while in the field! For more information, please visit: <http://lakids.dcfslacounty.gov/dcfslBISCS2012/iphone/index.aspx> 🇺🇸

## Close up: people you should know



**David Yada**, Children Services Administrator I  
Linkages Central Support Section  
(213) 351-5789 or [yadad@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:yadad@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

*"I will connect you with our DPSS partners who can help your clients access services including, but not limited to cash assistance, Medi-Cal, CalFresh (food stamps), homeless assistance, employment services and specialized supportive services such as substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence treatment services."*

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## The ARRT of Child Safety

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Francesca LeRue, Acting Division Chief, Risk Management  
leruef@dcfs.lacounty.gov

The Risk Management Critical Incident/Child Fatality (CI/CF) Section receives notification of all child fatalities and near fatalities that occur in Los Angeles County. Upon receipt of each notification, CI/CF is responsible for determining if the family associated with the fatality or near fatality has current and/or prior child welfare involvement within Los Angeles County. If it is determined that there is past and/or present child welfare involvement within Los Angeles County, CI/CF will conduct a thorough analysis of that involvement in order to gather relevant facts, assess the quality of service delivery, identify immediate safety concerns to be addressed, and to discuss, recommend correction of, and track and report on systemic issues identified through the case review process.

This analysis requires familiarity in case work practice, services and programs provided by the Department as well as community partners, and the Department's internal policies. The analysis includes reviews of all case notes completed by field social workers, court reports completed by social workers, minute orders, medical records documented in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) database, reviews of all other documents completed regarding the case (referrals to service providers, etc.), and discussions with regional staff.

When it is determined that there were potential deficiencies in working with a family, and/or there were systemic or operational areas of concern requiring further exploration; and/or the quality of service delivery or best practice did not appear to be adhered to, an Administrative Review Roundtable (ARRT) is convened. Department executives and staff from involved regional DCFS offices are required to attend the ARRTs. Lawyers from the Office of the County Counsel are always in attendance at ARRTs because a dominant purpose of the ARRT is to have a candid and confidential attorney-client communication about the underlying incident so that the lawyers may ask questions and offer legal advice. Additional participants normally include senior level managers, and staff from the Department's Internal Affairs and Performance Management Sections.

A major objective of an ARRT is to highlight the operational and systemic deficiencies identified during the case analysis which impede the Department's ability to ensure child safety. Additionally, the ARRT is utilized to develop strategies to assist in overcoming those obstacles for future service delivery as well as to develop corrective action plans, as needed.

Issues and outcomes of the ARRT meetings are tracked and presented to the County Counsel and Board of Supervisors in a privileged attorney-client report, which allows them to understand the salient facts, render legal advice, make recommendations and changes as needed in response, thereby reducing the Department's exposure to litigation and further increasing the safety of the children within Los Angeles County. A March 2012 California State Auditor report referred to the DCFS child death review process as "extensive." 🍷

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## 2013 Family Reunification Week Celebration

Each year during Family Reunification Week, LA County celebrates and honors families that have successfully reunified with their children in their family home. To nominate a "Family Reunification Week Hero," please submit a nomination form, located on LAKids. Nominees may include: parents, social workers, attorneys, foster parents, etc. Nominations must be received by August 1, 2013. For more information contact: Neil Zanville at (213) 739-6481 🍷



## High Achieving Foster Youth Take Center Stage at the 24th Annual “Celebration 2013” Graduation Ceremony.

Hundreds of friends, foster parents, and family members applauded and cheered as nearly 180 young adults were honored for their many successes on Tuesday, June 4 as part of the 24th annual “Celebration 2013: Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth” at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors addressed the graduates as did DCFS Director Philip L. Browning and Probation Chief Jerry Powers. David Ambroz, a nationally recognized leader in child welfare and Daisy Gonzalez, a former foster youth, Celebration alumnus and second-year doctoral student shared their insights with the graduates. Foster Care Counts provided laptops to the graduates, courtesy of Jeanne Pritzker. Nearly \$900,000 in scholarships were awarded to the graduates. Celebration is a special graduation ceremony held annually to honor foster and probation youth that have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher and plan to pursue a post secondary education.

Congratulations to our graduating foster youth and to the United Friends of the Children and DCFS Youth Development Services for a great event! 🎓

*Board Chairman  
Mark Ridley-Thomas*

*DCFS Director  
Philip L. Browning*

*Former Foster Youth  
Daisy Gonzalez*



# THE LAST WORD

## DCFS Workers Recently Celebrating Years of County Service

**25 years of service** - Adeline Luistro, Albert Argomaniz, Alma Rios, Ana Davis, Ana Hilden, Andy Kwong, Angela Duncan, Angelica Magaña, Angelina Maria Washington, Anthony Bazley, Barbara Kelly, Brandi Thomas, Brenda Magee, Carol Hardy, Carolyn Young, Caryn Butler, Cheryl Abram-Wallace, Connie Le Blanc-Belle, Crystal Huang, Cynthia Jefferson, Diana Cousin, Dolores Yglesias, Donna Culpepper, Dora Shum, Doreen Freeman, Elizabeth Penalver-Vasquez, Ellen Jones, Ethel Moton, Euronda Davis, Felicia Brooks, Felicisima Gutierrez, Gail Lawson, Glen Cockrell, Grace Velasco, Jerry Clyde, Kasaundra Young, Jacquelyn Steward, Jesusito Marifil, Kay Ingram, Jacqueline Lai, Leticia Carreon De Gonzalez, Linda Clark, Lisa Marcella McKay, Lorraine Broniola, Lorraine Johnson, Louise Peterman, Lynn Cooper, Margaret Lipton, Maria Borunda, Maria Guerrero, Mary Naylor, Michon Seldon, Nadine Henry, Marketta Bowman, Nestor Figueroa, Noel Bright-Wall, Page Yiu, Pamela Carolina, Patricia Metzger, Paulette Zimmerman, Portia Odom, Ratchanee Swang, Reina Wendel, Roberta Spears-Mathews, Ruthie Burrell, Sharon Coopwood, Sharon Morris, Sheila Rice, Stephanie Williams, Suchart Swang, Susan Kudo-Lee, Susan Rodarte, Susie Strangeland, Suzanne Rodarte, Tammy James, Teddy Kurniawidjaja, Terence Rice, Teri Gillams, Tiffany Doung, Vercie Free, Warren Battle, Wendy Powell, Xiomara Flores-Holguin

**30 years of service** - Barbara Garcia, David Diamond, Lelani Hayes, Martha Martinez, Robin Fuller, Ruby Laing

**35 years of service** - Chui Hom, Cynthia Shed-Long, Denise Rachal, Eric Marts, Floyd McConnell, Frances Boyadjian, Gail Irvis, Helen Moore, Jack Smoot, Pamela Wharry, Patsy Lemus, Paula Jackson-Hill, Sandra Becton, Sandra Giles, Steven Young, Susan Thomas, Teresa Arevalo, Valerie Geddes, Vercie Young, Wanda Harris

**40 years of service** - Carolyn Titus, Margaret Trujillo, Rex White, Rita Travis, Susan Granados, Tonye Lightfoot, Wanda Lunnie

**45 Years of Service** - Diane Sparks, Geneva Johnson, Lonnie Woods

## Congratulations to Recent DCFS Retirees

Angela Lau, Ann Scheifley, Aroutun Palian, Azalee Schaffer, Barbara Lester, Brenda Graves, Carolyn Mitchell, Carolyn Titus, Charles Quintana, Chuenchen Kao, David Urias, Edward Preer, Edward Sueiro, Ekerette Essien, Elena Recto, Garlina Lewis, Gasem Haldy, Gloria Vega, Herman Su, Irene Kuncir, Jewel Wilson, John Duke, Judy Weintraub, Katharine Planellas, Konthea Kang, Loan Huynh-Le, Loretta Federico, Mary Bailey, Mattie Bryant, Maxine Boado, Michael Glenn, Nelly Calabia-Childs, Nelson Rivero, Nilda Roos Unger, Olivia Lozano, Pamela Burris, Rita Janos, Rodolfo Marquez Jr., Sheila Showers, Susan Thom, Wayne Stewart, William Johnson, Willie Hall

## Recent Director's Employee Recognition Award Winners



**Accelerated Placement Team**

Top row (Left to Right): Ernesto Ochoa, Rodolfo Laxamana

Middle row (Left to Right): Azucena Merchan, Heidi Cruz-Mendez, Emery Lin, Hieu Ngo, Fernando Duran, Brenda Fox, Angie Mascarenas, Delva Roberts, Joyce Cattenhead, Maya Hivale, Anyika Sholes, Rhonda Terry, Jorge Sepulveda

Bottom row (Left to Right): Lourdes Valderrama, Vutheara Ouk, Joseph Sims, Judith Quinones, Andrea Jones, Veronica Cervantes, Marocka Covington, Charlene Robinson



## Recent Director's Employee Recognition Award Winners



**Shawn Prokopec**  
Supervising Children's Social Worker  
Metro North Office



**Elizabeth V. Jayme**  
Children's Social Worker III  
El Monte Office



**Denise Pichon**  
Children's Social Worker III  
South County Office



**Raymond Fountain**  
Supervising Children's Social Worker  
Child Protection Hotline



**Salvador Harold**  
Administrative Assistant I  
Headquarter Annex



**Sharon Guy-Ukattah**  
Supervising Children's Social Worker  
Wateridge Office



**Michelle Levesque**  
Supervising Children's Social Worker  
Compton Office



**Maria Buynak**  
Eligibility Supervisor  
Revenue Enhancement



**Crystal Huang**  
Division Chief  
Fiscal Operations

### 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



Los Angeles County  
Department of Children  
and Family Services  
425 Shatto Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
[www.lacdcfs.org](http://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](mailto:publicaffairs@dcfs.lacounty.gov)  
Armand Montiel  
Neil Zanville  
Dominique Robinson  
Elizabeth Orozco  
Donnetta Baker  
Richard Cervantes