



# DCFS AT WORK

Investing in Los Angeles County families every day

January 5, 2021  
Volume 2, Edition 1

## WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

At DCFS we believe our community deserves a highly skilled, culturally competent, trained and supported workforce to improve outcomes.



The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services recognizes its top performers with the Director’s Employee Recognition Award (DERA). The distinction is earned by those whose efforts and achievements epitomize workforce excellence.

Because outstanding work takes place at all levels and across all departmental functions, awards fall into one of five categories: administrative manager, direct service staff, support service staff, team, or special meritorious service.

In 2020, DCFS celebrated three groups and seven individuals who demonstrated remarkable innovation, commitment and resolve in advancing the department’s goals and improving outcomes for children and families.

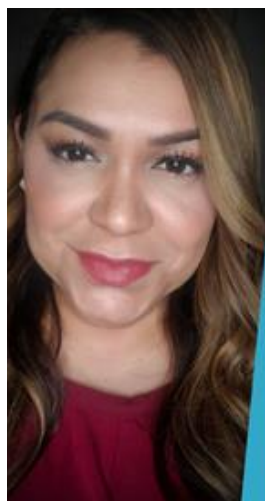
They joined 350 others who have earned the distinction since 2004 when the DERAs began.

Nominated by peers and supervisors, group awards recognized outstanding teamwork and collaboration that facilitated efforts to engage stakeholders and provided excellent customer service for vulnerable groups, such as children with special needs. Individual recognitions were awarded for a wide variety of actions such as mentoring or offering guidance to colleagues, consistently volunteering to assist others and going beyond stated expectations to be accessible to children and families.


As one of the three investment areas of [Invest LA](#), workforce excellence is crucial to the department’s effort to ensure that families across Los Angeles County receive high quality child welfare support and thrive. It is driven by the core belief that families deserve to be supported by well-trained and competent staff who are respectful and responsive to their needs. DCFS is prioritizing training, recruitment and retention efforts designed to strengthen the overall caliber of staff.

DERA is in place to appreciate and acknowledge staff for their positive impact on Los Angeles County families supported by the department. DCFS staff are essential workers, and it is important to celebrate successes and remind staff that their hard work is valued, particularly during challenging and difficult times.


As the new year begins with renewed hope and optimism for the future, please enjoy a look back at the 2020 DERA recipients and see in their own words some of the reasons why these admirable individuals continue to do this important work day after day.



“  
Sharing knowledge and wisdom with others enhances services for families and children.  
GABRIELA BRECEDA



“  
Social work was chosen for me at birth. As a teen and young adult, life pointed me towards social work. I was that community member who neighbors called on for help.  
ISAAC JACKSON



“  
Sometimes all a child, adult, or family needs is one person. One person to believe in them, guide them, encourage and support them. I aim to be that person for whomever needs it.  
TRACY JUAREZ



All youth have a hidden treasure and our unit seeks to search it out! Office of Child Protection is more than a job, it is a calling that yields lifelong connections!

ACCELERATED PLACEMENT TEAM



It's motivating to know that by developing service contracts we help strengthen families, keep children safe at home or secure alternative living arrangements. Thereby, enriching the lives of children and families.

CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATION TEAM



We feel responsible for the well-being of every single child who crosses our path and, although we may never meet most of them, they will never just be a name to us.

MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TEAM



What motivates me is helping families deal with their trauma and building a strong foundation around their children. I am also motivated by being able to advocate for children to have a healthier childhood.



ELIZABETH CARLOS



I have a servitude mindset. My work ethic is high because of the possibility of making a difference and I strive to be someone who is willing to assist wherever possible.



ANDREA M. JONES



Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go.



MARSHA MORTON



I always knew I would have a career in a helping profession, and I take pride in supporting and offering resources to CSW's who, in turn, provide services to children with complex trauma and high-risk behaviors.



MEGHAN SHANNON

Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect to 800-540-4000

