



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

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February 28, 2017

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair  
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From: Judge Michael Nash (Ret.)   
Executive Director, Office of Child Protection

## EVALUATION AND FUNDING REPORT ON THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the October 6, 2015, motion to establish the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (Center), the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to work closely with Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) to conduct an analysis to determine the effectiveness of the Center's efforts and whether its initiatives and efforts are supportive of vulnerable children and families. If the analysis determined that the Center met the needs of the County and philanthropy, a funding sustainability plan was to be developed among the departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, Public Social Services, Sheriff, and Probation.

The Center became operational on April 1, 2016, with the hiring of Director Kathryn Anderson, and was fully staffed in December 2016 with Elizabeth Cohen as the Associate Center Director and Gita Murthy Cugley as a project consultant. In the ten months since the Center was established, it has developed its agenda of shared priorities identified by the County and philanthropy in the areas of prevention, the recruitment and retention of resource families, and transition-age youth<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Center has focused on countywide issues in the areas of service delivery for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth; initiatives to make Los Angeles a trauma-informed county; and a cross-sector measurement of the health and well-being of Los Angeles County communities to ensure an alignment of services.

In discussions with the CEO and SCG, it was agreed that the Center's initiatives and its efforts were supporting vulnerable children and their families. In addition, SCG offered to assist with the Center's evaluation through a partnership with the Casey Family Programs. This partnership will produce one-year and three-year evaluations of the Center

<sup>1</sup> July 1, 2016, memo to the Board of Supervisors: Progress Update on the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (response to October 6, 2015, Agenda Item 2)

to chronicle its first year's work and generate a comprehensive evaluation to be completed after year three.

Although the Center has begun work on several of its initiatives and has secured funding for an LGBTQ youth study and an evaluation of a family-finding pilot, the Center's limited time in operation makes it difficult to assess its effectiveness and thereby develop an ongoing funding sustainability plan with the departments. As the Center's impacts on County Departments become more measurable, a funding plan that includes charging out a portion of these costs will be established.

In the interim, we ask that we may continue to utilize the Provisional Finances Uses (PFU) monies set aside for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection recommendations to fund the County's share of the Center's costs and match the philanthropic monies through the remainder of the Center's three-year pilot (which ends March 31, 2019). The projected costs to be funded from PFU total \$288,750.

If we do not hear any objections to this plan by March 15, 2017, we will include those funds for Board approval during the 2017–18 and 2018–19 fiscal year budget process.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 893-1152 or by e-mail at [mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:mnash@ocp.lacounty.gov), or your staff may contact Carrie Miller at (213) 893-0862 or by e-mail at [cmiller@ocp.lacounty.gov](mailto:cmiller@ocp.lacounty.gov).

MN:CDM  
KMH:eih

c: Chief Executive Office  
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