



Los Angeles County

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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**COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMISSIONERS BY SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017**

FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

Maria Brenes
Wendy Garen
John Kim

FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Candace Nafissi
Wendelyn Nichols-Julien
Amy Howorth

SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

Candace Cooper
Sydney Kamlager

Dr. Sunny Kang
(Served until February 2017)
Janet Teague
(Served until February 2017)

THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

Carol O. Biondi
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Dr. Wendy B. Smith

FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

Genevra Berger
Patricia Curry
Liz Seipel

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Chair
Liz Seipel, Vice Chair
Dr. Wendy B. Smith, Vice Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tamara N. Hunter, MSW

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MISSION STATEMENT AND ORDINANCE

On November 7, 2016, the Commission for Children and Families (Commission) adopted a new mission statement:

The Commission for Children and Families advises the Board of Supervisors on strengthening service delivery systems and enhancing partnerships to create safer and more secure futures for Los Angeles County's at-risk children and their families.

This mission statement reflects the Commission's vision of its purpose and values, as well as its contributions to Los Angeles County's child welfare system.

Ordinance

The Commission was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) on May 8, 1984, and is charged by its ordinance to:

- Review all programs administered by County departments that provide services for at-risk children;
- Receive input from appropriate community groups and individuals concerning County administered children's services programs;
- Review and make recommendations to the Board concerning legislation dealing with children's needs;
- Make recommendations, as necessary, to various County department heads to improve children's services;
- Make recommendations, as necessary, to the Board on action to be taken to improve children's services; and,
- Provide an annual report to the Board concerning the status of children's services, along with recommendations for their improvement, to be utilized for broad community distribution and discussion.

KEY ISSUES IMPACTING AT-RISK and SYSTEMS-INVOLVED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, Los Angeles County experienced transition at the highest level of governance, when new Board Supervisors were elected to the Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts. This change at the Board level resulted in transition within the Commission for Children and Families (Commission), as three new Commissioners were appointed, bringing the total number of Commissioners having served for three years or less to nine.

Change has been a common theme at the departmental level as well. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is also in the midst of transition, as its director retired from the agency in February 2017, after providing a five-year period of stable leadership. DCFS is currently under the leadership of an acting director. In November 2016, after nearly two-decades, the Department of Mental Health welcomed new leadership when its director of 17 years retired. Finally, in January 2017, the Probation Department received a new Chief, as well as a new Chief-Deputy Probation Officer to lead juvenile operations.

In December 2016, the Board established the Women and Girl's Initiative and its Governing Council to "address the disproportionate burdens and disadvantages that women and girls in Los Angeles face". In view of the intersection of issues impacting women and girls, and those of great importance to the Commission for Children and Families, a Commission representative participated in the development of the Women and Girl's Initiative and Governing Council as part of its planning committee.

In response to shifts in Federal immigration policy, the Board established the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in January 2017. The OIA was established to advance the well-being of the more than 3.5 million immigrants residing in Los Angeles County by linking them with necessary services and supports. Many vulnerable children, youth, and families within the Commission's purview are a part of the immigrant community, and as a result, the Commission began working collaboratively with the OIA to enhance services and supports to populations served by both bodies. See Special Populations section.

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACTIVITIES

During FY 2017-18, the Commission continued its focus in three priority areas: *special populations of youth with high level needs; prevention of maltreatment; and, placement resources*. Although changes to Commission appointees has impacted its work in some priority areas, these shifts have also facilitated the development of new emerging partnerships. Of note, is the Commission's deeper involvement in collaborative work with a wide array of community based stakeholders.

Priority Area: Special Populations with High Level Needs

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

At-risk and systems-involved youth have increased vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation, and the number of youth being trafficked is steadily increasing. During this period of review, the Commission became aware of various community stakeholder groups who are interested in addressing CSEC, but unsure of how to make a meaningful difference. To begin the process of building bridges between formal institutions and a willing community, the Commission has held meetings with DCFS, the Probation Department, and the Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court. During one "brainstorming session" among the participants listed above, several initial, potential strategies for brokering connections were identified.

During this period of review, the Commission also began to engage with direct service providing CSEC community based organizations to develop a greater understanding of human trafficking; the challenges associated with work in this area; and, how the service delivery continuum must be strengthened to meet the unique needs of this population. The Commission's representative also participates in the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Taskforce. The Commission's work in this area will continue into FY 2017-18.

Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families

During FY 2016-17 often contentious Federal-level discourse regarding immigration and deportation began to take a significant toll on immigrant families and their

communities. As a result, at a June 2017 Commission meeting, the Commission convened a panel of key stakeholders to learn more about how at-risk and systems-involved children and families in Los Angeles County are being impacted. The panel included representatives from the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), DCFS, Department of Mental Health, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), and Children's Law Center, and discussed issues ranging from the psychological toll on children and adults, to obtaining legal status for victims of maltreatment, to community outreach to ensure that families know their rights and are linked to supportive services.

The June 2017 meeting, featured in an article in the *Chronicle for Social Change*¹, allowed for an important conversation about immigration and child welfare, and served as a first step in the Commission's ongoing work with the OIA and other stakeholders to further efforts to support vulnerable children, families, and communities. This work is expected to continue during FY 2017-18.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth

In view of the Commission's commitment to special populations of youth with unique needs, during this period of review, the Los Angeles LGBT Center reached out to the Commission to work collaboratively to improve services and supports for LGBTQ systems-involved youth. The Commission's emerging work in this area is in alignment with Board priorities. In June 2017, the Commission participated in a stakeholder convening, which served as an initial conversation on how to further the work to improve supportive service provision to LGBTQ youth in Los Angeles County. The Commission's work in this area is expected to continue into FY 2017-18.

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

The Commission holds a seat on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), and through its representative, has played a key role in establishing the JJCC Advisory

¹ L.A. County Agencies Chart Impact of Immigration Policies on Children. (2017) The Chronicle of Social Change, <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news-2/l-county-agencies-chart-impact-immigration-policies-children/27268>

Committee. The JJCC Community Advisory Committee is a standing committee, and was established to fill a significant gap in engagement between the broader JJCC and community based service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders. The Committee will serve as a forum through which community stakeholders will have a voice and a meaningful role in shaping the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles County. The JJCC Community Advisory Committee is co-chaired by a representative from the Commission and a representative from the Urban Peace Institute. The Committee was established during the last quarter of FY 2016-17, and is focused on establishing its governance structure and other administrative processes. The Commission's work in this area will continue through FY 2017-18.

WIC 236: Voluntary Supervision

In recent years, the number of youth under WIC 236: "Voluntary" Supervision by the Probation Department has significantly increased. The WIC 236 program is primarily implemented in schools, and youth are often referred to the program for school related issues, such as low motivation, poor attendance, and low grades. Troubled by the use of a law enforcement based approach to address academic problems, as well as increasing Probation Department expenditures for the program, the Commission worked closely with community based advocates, including the Children's Defense Fund, Youth Justice Coalition, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, and Urban Peace Institute to produce the 2017 report, *WIC 236: "Pre-Probation" Supervision of Youth of Color With No Prior Court or Probation Involvement*². The report highlights a number of concerns regarding the WIC 236 program, and includes several County and State-level recommendations for improvement. The WIC 236 program will be evaluated as part of the comprehensive audit and evaluation of the County's Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act program, which is currently underway. The Commission's work in this area will continue through FY 2017-18.

Central Juvenile Hall

During this period of review, the Commission became aware of concerning conditions of the County's Central Juvenile Hall facility, as well as closure of its Elite Family Unit

² *"Pre-Probation" Supervision of Youth of Color With No Prior Court or Probation Involvement* available at <http://www.cdfca.org/library/wic-236.html>

(EFU), a specialized unit designed to meet the mental health needs of female foster youth entering the juvenile justice system. Several Commission representatives conducted a site visit of the facility in May 2017 to learn more about the conditions. In addition to observing the poor physical conditions, Commissioners left with a number of outstanding concerns and questions regarding the County's capacity to meet the mental health needs of youth at the facility. Commissioners met with representatives from the First and Third Supervisorial Districts to discuss their concerns, which were documented and submitted to the Department of Mental Health. The draft document will be finalized and the work in this area is expected to continue into FY 2017-18.

LA Model - Camp Vernon Kilpatrick Replacement Project

During this period of review, a Commission representative continued to work as part of the "Team of 12" implementing the LA Model of juvenile justice. On April 18, 2017, the "Team of 12", which includes partners from the Probation Department, National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCDD), and Casey Family Programs was honored for their work by the Board. The Campus Kilpatrick grand opening was held on June 30, 2017.

Transitional Age Youth

During this period of review, the Commission continued its leadership in the work to support transitional age youth (TAY). With more than 60 different formal bodies and other groups in the County working to address one or more issues impacting TAY, the Commission and its partners recognized the need for improved coordination of efforts and leveraging of resources to maximize opportunities to improve outcomes for TAY.

The Commission began working closely with DCFS, Children's Law Center, and Alliance for Children's Rights to develop an executive steering committee to enhance TAY related service delivery in Los Angeles County. For many years, State and Federally allocated Chafee funding stream served as the only resource available for youth transitioning out of foster care. There were few resources available within the community, primarily because the community was not aware of, or informed about the needs of TAY. Over time community awareness has changed and there is now a strong recognition of the issues affecting former foster youth, including homelessness. The

Commission's work as part of this developing steering committee is expected to continue into FY 2017-18.

Independent Living Program Budget and Resources Workgroup

The Commission continued to lead the Independent Living Program (ILP) Budget and Resources Work Group. Co-chaired with DCFS, the ILP Budget and Resources Workgroup includes a wide swath of public and private stakeholders who are dedicated to improving outcomes for TAY. The ILP Budget and Resources Workgroup focuses on oversight of the ILP budget and aligning resources to strengthen the continuum of care for TAY.

During the review period, advocates participating in the ILP Budget and Resources workgroup advised the Commission that youth were not receiving ILP related services and support, including funding, in a timely manner, if at all. The Commission worked with DCFS to resolve immediate training issues, and recommended interventions to address systemic problems impacting service delivery to TAY. One such recommendation included reinstatement of the ILP Ombudsman position. The ILP Ombudsman served as an independent advocate, charged with investigating and resolving complaints and concerns on behalf of ILP eligible TAY. Other suggested changes included clearly defining eligibility for the youth receiving funds and establishment of an appeals process for youth denied funding.

Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth

During this period of review, the Commission continued to work with public and private partners to improve outcomes for expectant and parenting foster youth, and their children. In addition to the significant challenge of developing the requisite skills for their own self-sufficiency, transitional age youth who are parents have the increased burden of developing effective parenting skills to meet their children's needs. The Commission has worked closely with DCFS to improve service coordination and integration between its Youth Development Services (YDS) Division, Health Management Services Division, and regional offices. This work has included increasing the number of ILP-eligible youth who are linked to home visitation and parenting programs, and streamlining overlapping processes and documentation related to Expectant and Parenting Teen Conferences, Child and Family Teams, and the Transition

Independent Living Plan (TILP). Similarly, the Commission also advocated for the inclusion of parenting youth exiting the foster care system in the County-wide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative as a priority population.

The Commission continued its collaborative work with stakeholders and advocates, such as Imagine LA, to ensure that parenting youth exiting the foster care system have access to affordable child care, permanent and affordable housing, and community based supportive services.

Finally, the Commission has also continued to advocate for youth voice and choice with regard to their sexual and reproductive health as Los Angeles County implements California's statewide mandatory *Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies for Youth and Non-Minor Dependents*³.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Board should direct relevant Departments to reinstate the ILP Ombudsman.
2. The Board should direct relevant Departments to conduct an audit of ILP funds; develop clear guidelines outlining eligibility for funds and services; and, develop an appeals process.
3. The Board should direct relevant Departments to ensure that all expectant and parenting youth under DCFS and Probation supervision are connected with home visiting services.
4. The Board should direct relevant Departments to consolidate, to the extent reasonable, overlapping processes and documentation related to Expectant and Parenting Teen Conferences, Child and Family Teams, and the TILP.

Mental Health

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) System Leadership Team (SLT)

The Commission holds a seat on the MHSA SLT, where its representative advocates for the allocation of adequate MHSA resources for at-risk and systems-involved children, youth, and families. During this period of review, the SLT focused on development of the

³ California's Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies for Youth and Non-Minor Dependents. Available at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/CaliforniaPregPrevPlan.pdf>

MHSA Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2019-20, which was approved by the Board in May 2017. The Commission's representative participated in the MHSA SLT Early Intervention sub-committee, and worked to increase funding allocations to home visitation programs. The Commission also worked to enhance DMH participation and investment in the County-wide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative.

Psychotropic Medication

The Commission, through its representatives, continued participation in the Office of Child Protection (OCP) led Psychotropic Medication Work Group during this period of review. The Psychotropic Medication Work Group, comprised of representatives from multiple County departments, and external stakeholders, has focused on implementation of revised protocols governing approval and monitoring processes of psychotropic medications for systems-involved children and youth. Additionally, the Psychotropic Medication Work Group recently began exploring how to best ensure that youth who have reached the age of majority are prepared to make medical decisions for themselves, and maintain their medication regimens, should that be their choice. The Commission's participation in the work group is expected to continue into FY 17-18.

Priority Area: Prevention of Maltreatment

Countywide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative

The Commission's work in collaboration with the Office of Child Protection (OCP) and First 5 LA, on the County-wide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative continued during FY 2016-17. This work included engaging with the other County bodies, such as Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, and the OCP-led Home Visiting Work Group, to coordinate activities and leverage resources. During this period of review, the prevention plan was finalized and released in the June 2017 report, Paving the Road To Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County. The Commission's involvement in this project, as it shifts toward plan implementation, will continue into FY 2017-18.

First 5 LA Board of Commissioners

During FY 2016-17, the Commission continued to advocate for system-involved young children and families as part of the First 5 LA Commission. First 5 LA continues to focus on strengthening its signature initiatives, Best Start Communities and Welcome Baby. During this period of review, First 5 LA and several philanthropic partners also joined together to lead Los Angeles County's transformation into a trauma and resiliency informed system. Finally, the organization has been deeply involved in the development of the Countywide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative, as highlighted in the section above.

The Commission's collaboration with First 5 LA on various initiatives, and its representation on the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners will continue into FY 2017-18.

Young Children

Children from birth to age five are among the most vulnerable populations in Los Angeles County, and the Commission has continued its work to improve outcomes for this group. During the period of review, the Commission provided support to the DCFS Young Children in Care Work Group, including participation in a quasi-focus group which informed the development of *Birth to Five*, a comprehensive training for DCFS employees and other stakeholders who work with young children.

During FY 2016-17, the Commission, through its representative, worked closely with DCFS, the Third Supervisorial District, and other stakeholders as part of the DCFS Child Care Pilot Committee. The Child Care Pilot Committee was developed as an advisory group tasked with providing DCFS technical assistance, overseeing development of a pilot program in Service Planning Area 2, and supporting State-level advocacy efforts.

Approval of the statewide Emergency Child Care Bridge Program in June 2017 set the stage for a \$31 million dollar annual allocation to support this program. An All County Letter released in August will guide implementation of the new statewide program which will be available to resource families as well as parenting youth in the protective

services system. The statewide program is expected to begin in January 2018.

Finally, the Commission continues to hold a seat on the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable). During the review period, the Commission's representative worked to enhance collaboration among a spectrum of partners concerned with the well-being of young children. This included helping to engage the Office for Advancement of Early Care and Education, Policy Roundtable and Child Care Planning Committee, Los Angeles County Office of Education and key departments in the County-wide Maltreatment Prevention Initiative.

A more coordinated structure will likely be needed to guide alignment of multiple efforts related to early care and education and the Commission will continue its work to improve outcomes for young children into FY 2017-18.

Education

Every Student Succeeds Act

Placement and educational stability go hand in hand, and both are often elusive for foster youth. Frequent school changes can be detrimental to youth academic achievement and overall well-being. In view of the critical importance of educational attainment for youth, in February 2017, Commission representatives testified before the Board in support of a motion which directed relevant County departments to develop and implement a plan to bring Los Angeles County into full compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Among other things, the ESSA mandates that child welfare and local education agencies take action to ensure that foster youth remain in their school of origin when it has been determined to be in their best interest to do so. The Board ESSA Motion was unanimously approved.

Education Coordinating Council

The Commission continues to hold a seat on the County's Education Coordinating Council (ECC). The ECC's mission is to raise the educational achievement of systems-

involved youth, and during this period of review, the ECC has focused largely on implementing its 2016-2021 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. The Board should direct relevant Departments to implement the recommendations included in the 2017 report, Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County.

Priority Area: Placement Resources

Child Welfare Collective Impact Initiative

In May 2017, the Ralph M. Parson's Foundation launched a collective impact initiative to address the County's resource family recruitment and retention crisis. In addition to the Commission's representative, a broad coalition of public and private partners such as, First 5 LA, the Office of Child Protection, DCFS, the First Supervisorial District, Fostering Media Connections, and the W.M. Keck Foundation, have come together to participate in an innovative approach to addressing this complex systemic problem.

The Commission's representative is part of the Landscape Analysis Sub-Committee and has worked closely with the team of consultants to develop the scope of work for an analysis of Los Angeles County's recruitment and retention space. The Commission's work as part of the Child Welfare Collective Impact Initiative is expected to continue into FY 2017-18.

Transitional Shelter Care

The Commission continues to participate in the Transitional Shelter Care Working Group led by the Office of Child Protection. The original pilot project, which was developed by this group and focuses on provision of intensive support to youth placed in shelter care who present with significant challenges that serve as barriers to permanent placement, is ongoing. At the time of this writing, the Working Group is contemplating the development of an additional pilot, which will include an engagement placement stabilization meeting to encourage youth to transition to longer term placement. The new pilot project would also include enhanced Court oversight to increase

accountability of the system, and to resolve placement issues earlier. The Commission's work in this area will continue into FY 2017-18.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission respectfully recommends that the Board:

1. Direct relevant Departments to reinstate the ILP Ombudsman.
2. Direct relevant Departments to conduct an audit of ILP funds; develop clear guidelines outlining eligibility for funds and services; and, develop an appeals process.
3. Direct relevant Departments to ensure that all expectant and parenting youth under DCFS and Probation supervision are connected with home visiting services.
4. Direct relevant Departments to consolidate, to the extent reasonable, overlapping processes and documentation related to Expectant and Parenting Teen Conferences, Child and Family Teams, and the TILP.
5. Direct relevant Departments to implement the recommendations included in the 2017 report, Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County.

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MEETINGS

Commission meetings are the primary vehicle through which information regarding issues, programs and services impacting children and families is exchanged.

Commission meetings serve as an important venue in which Commissioners, partners and stakeholders are informed about child welfare related issues in Los Angeles County.

During FY 2016-17, the Commission held 15 regular meetings in which reports and presentations from County departments, advocates and stakeholders on child welfare related issues, services and programs were provided. Fiscal Year 2016-17 meeting topics included:

- Legislation Impacting At-Risk & Systems-Involved Children, Youth, & Families
- Quality Parenting Initiative
- Young Children in Care
- Education Coordinating Council
- Early Care and Education for At-Risk Children
- DMH Children's Systems of Care
- National Foster Youth Institute – Informing the Search for the New DCFS Director
- Continuum of Care Reform
- WIC: 236 Pre-Probation Supervision of Youth of Color
- Homeless Youth Coordinated Entry System
- DCFS Emergency Shelter Care
- DMH TAY Systems of Care
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
- Visitation
- Immigration and At-Risk and Systems-Involved Children, Youth & Families
- Non-Profit Sustainability Initiative

**COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REPRESENTATION
ON COUNTY BODIES FISCAL YEAR 2016-17**

Education Coordinating Council	Maria Brenes
First 5 LA Commission	Patricia Curry Dr. Wendy B. Smith
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council	Carol O. Biondi
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Community Advisory Committee	Carol O. Biondi
LA Model Team of 12	Carol O. Biondi
LA County CCR Steering Committee	Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Patricia Curry
Mental Health Services Act System Leadership Team	Liz Seipel
Countywide Child Maltreatment Prevention Initiative Work Group	Patricia Curry John Kim Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Office of Child Protection Transitional Shelter Care Working Group	Dr. Wendy B. Smith
Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development	Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Wendy Garen
Psychotropic Medication Work Group	Wendelyn Nichols-Julien Dr. Wendy Smith

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission maintains a critical and distinct role in Los Angeles County. As advisors to the Board, and advocates for the most vulnerable children and families, the Commission often serves as a bridge between the County and its pivotal partners, including the courts, philanthropy, the non-profit sector, and the community. The Commission's experience, expertise and steadfast commitment to at-risk children and families has contributed to the forging of strong partnerships with some of the most important entities shaping public policy in Los Angeles County.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

During this period of review, the Commission was appointed a seat on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). Established by the Board of Supervisors in 1996, the JJCC is responsible for oversight of grant funds allocated to county Probation Departments state-wide to reduce the threat of juvenile crime and delinquency.

First 5 LA Board of Commissioners

The Commission holds a seat on the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners. The First 5 LA Commission, led by the chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is comprised of Board appointed leaders in education, mental health, public health, and child welfare. First 5 LA is dedicated to systems change, and serves as one of the County's most pivotal partners.

Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development

The Commission holds a seat on the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable). The Roundtable, comprised of Board appointed leaders, representatives of key early care and education (ECE) organizations and six County departments, builds and strengthens ECE systems, services and supports by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement.

Education Coordinating Council

The Commission holds a seat on the Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council (ECC). The ECC brings together key leaders, decision makers and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop and implement strategies and initiatives designed to close the tremendous achievement gap among children and youth involved with the public child welfare and delinquency systems.

Mental Health Services Act System Leadership Team

The Commission is represented on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) System Leadership Team (SLT). As a component of the 2004 MHSA, the SLT was established to serve as a quick-response advisory and monitoring body on issues concerning the MHSA plan and the County's broader public mental health system.

Office of Child Protection

During this period of review, the Commission continued to partner with the Office of Child Protection on several initiatives to further develop and enhance the service delivery system across County departments that impact at-risk children and families.