

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

2024

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES 2024 ROSTER

First Supervisorial District

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

Gabriela Eddy
Jose Miguel Ruiz
Michael Flowers
Maria Brenes (served until June)
Samuel Prater (served until September)

Second Supervisorial District

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell

Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole
Zaid Gayle
Franco Vega

Third Supervisorial District

Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

Dr. Khush Cooper
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Roman James

Fourth Supervisorial District

Supervisor Janice Hahn

Tiffany Boyd
Dora Jacildo
Eli Romero

Fifth Supervisorial District

Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Shimica Gaskins
Dr. Jeanette Mann
Lou Moore

Commission Officers

Shimica Gaskins, Chair
Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole, Vice Chair
Franco Vega, Vice Chair

Executive Director

Barbara Spyrou Lundqvist (Interim, January – June)
Armand Montiel (Interim, July – December)

Commission for Children and Families Website:

<http://ccf.lacounty.gov/>

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MISSION STATEMENT AND ORDINANCE

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.

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 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.
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COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES IN 2024

As reflected by the Commission's meeting topics and presenters (shown later in this report), the Commission heard from agencies, advocates, and community members on several issues impacting children and families this year. These presentations informed the Commission of ongoing challenges and provided opportunities to address the continuing and emerging needs for children in Los Angeles County, particularly, foster children, children aged zero to five years, school-aged children, and transition-aged older youth.

During the first half of the year, the Commission had a particular interest in the contracted role of Sheriff's Deputies on school campuses. The Commission heard from community advocates that wanted to ensure that the presence of these School Resource Deputies, whose primary purpose is to help maintain a safe environment on campus, did not undermine the school experience for students, particularly Black and Latinx students. On April 2, 2024, the Commission submitted a memo¹ to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the Board direct County agencies to implement the recommendations from the Civilian Oversight Commission's, Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee, October 19, 2023 Report and Recommendations² on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's School Resource Deputy Program, and to take additional steps identified by the Commission.

The Commission also continued to focus on the needs of foster children by receiving updates and presentations at their meetings on the developmental, placement, and mental health needs of these children and youth.

The Commission's Racial Justice Committee (RJC) is a "standing" committee that, like the Commission, meets monthly and adheres to the open meeting requirements of California's Ralph M. Brown Act. The RJC expanded the Commission's focus to include the impact that involvement in the family law court and child support systems has on families, particularly women and children.

A highlight of the year was the Commission's celebration of its 40th Anniversary. Supervisor Hilda L. Solis provided special remarks and presented an anniversary Board scroll to the Commission. Many Commissioners from years past, joined the present Commissioners to recognize the four decades of service the Commission has provided to the children and families of Los Angeles County.

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

2024 MEETINGS

The Commission meetings are the primary vehicle through which information regarding pertinent topics within the Commission’s purview is shared with Commissioners and other stakeholders. At every Commission meeting, the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or his designee, provides a report on the Department. In addition to the DCFS report, following are the topics and presenters for the Commission’s 2024 meetings:

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC	PRESENTERS
January 22	Cancel the Contract on the Sheriff’s Department Resource Deputy Program	-Waunette Cullors, Co-founder, Cancel the Contract (CTC) -Raquel Derfler, Chair, CTC -Saidah Gray, Communications and Art Director, CTC -Marquis Williams, Youth Organizer, CTC
February 2	Commission for Children and Families (CCF) Retreat and discussion of 2024 Priorities	-Rochelle Alley and Alicia Smith, Commission Retreat Facilitators, Big Orange Spot, LLC
February 12	2024 State Budget and Child Welfare Legislative Update	-Kristin Powers, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Children’s Rights -Danielle Wondra, Senior Associate, Children Now
March 18	School Resource Deputy Program of the Lancaster School District	-Kym Cochran, Director of Pupil Safety and Attendance, Lancaster School District
April 1	Potential Action Related to Foster Family Agencies	-Jodi Kurata, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA) -Anna Rubin, Child Welfare Policy Director, ACHSA

June 3	Listening Session and Discussion with Mothers who have Experienced the Family Court, Dependency Court, and/or Child Welfare System	-Angela Bejarano -Keisha Dixon -Latia Suttle -Tina Rios
July 15	The Impact of Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Involvement on Children Zero to Five Years	-Mike Sherman, Psy.D., Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Consultation Manager, Safe Babies, a program of ZERO TO THREE -Laura Andrade, Ph.D., Children's Services Administrator III, Continuous Quality Improvement, CFSR/QIR/Birth to Five Manager, DCFS -Anna Potere, Program Development and Effectiveness Manager, First 5 LA
August	No Meeting	
September 9 (1)	Discussion on DCFS' Updated Foster Youth Placement and Removal Rate Charts	-Brandon T. Nichols, Director, DCFS
September 9 (2)	Discussion on the Echo Park Home for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and a plan for TAY "Bridge" Apartments	-Kate Anderson, Executive Director, Center for Strategic Partnerships -Zaneta Smith, Division Chief, Supportive Housing Division, DCFS -Linda Jenkins, Community Development Division Director, Los Angeles Community Development Agency -Kenta Estrada-Darley, Senior Director, Coalition for Responsible Community Development, South LA All In -Erika Hartman, Chief Executive Officer, Safe Place for Youth, -Sarah Yun, Program Officer, California Community Foundation -Ronique Ross, Executive Assistant, DCFS
October	No meeting	

November 4	Presentation and Discussion on Los Angeles (LA) County Prevention Programs and Community Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dr. Tamara N. Hunter, DSW, Interim Executive Director, LA County Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee -Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, John Milner Professor of Child Welfare, University of Southern California -Minsun Meeker, Assistant Executive Director, LA County Office of Child Protection Services -Robert Woolridge, Deputy Director, Administrative Support Services, DCFS
November 18	Special Recognition of the 40 th Anniversary of the CCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County -Cynthia McCoy-Miller, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS -Commissioner Shimica Gaskins, Chair, Commission for Children and Families (CCF) -Commissioner Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey, CCF
December 16	<p>Discussion re: CCF 2025 Priorities</p> <p>Update on Racial Justice Standing Committee</p> <p>Update on Foster Family Agency Ad-Hoc Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All Commissioners -Commissioner Roman James, CCF -Commissioner Khushnuma Cooper, CCF

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (A STANDING COMMITTEE) 2024 MEETINGS

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
January 10	Update on the Mandated Supporting Initiative	-Dr. Tamara N. Hunter, Interim Executive Director, Los Angeles County Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC) -Gwendolyn Jones, PPSGC
	RJC focus areas and schedule	-RJC Committee Members
February 14	Discussions on Focus Areas, Setting the Schedule, and Leadership Rotation	-RJC Committee Members
March 13	Presentation and Discussion on Family Court Reform	-Danielle Pollack, Policy Manager, The National Family Violence Law Center, George Washington University
April 10	Roundtable discussion with stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations from the Commission's letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Sheriff's School Resource Deputy Program and AB 3038	-Raquel Derfler, Chair, CTC -Waunette Cullors, Program Director, CTC -Andrea Welsing, Director, Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention
No Meeting in May		
June 12	Discussion and possible action to create a Commitment Statement for Racial Justice Committee Members	-RJC Committee Members
	Debrief from the June 3, 2024, Commission for	-Led by Commissioner Roman James, CCF

	Children and Families' Listening Session with Mothers who have Experienced the Family Court, Dependency Court, and/or Child Welfare System	
No Meeting in July		
No Meeting in August		
September 16	Discussion on Co-Occurring Safety Concerns and Outcomes of Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations in Los Angeles County	-Rebecca Rebbe, PhD, Children's Data Network, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
October 7	Discussion on the Challenges faced by Persons of Color and Women Involved with the Family Court and the Child Support Services Department (CSSD)	-Alyson Messenger, Managing Staff Attorney, Jenesse Center -Lisa Szekely, Staff Attorney, Jenesse Center -Julie Watson, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department -Veronica Clayborne, Parent
No Meeting in November		
December 9	Discussion on Working with System-Impacted Survivors and their Children: Professionals chime in on the challenges faced by those who have contact with multiple county agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services and Family Court	-Andrea Caster, Attorney -Kelly Fischer, Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention -Amy Goldman, Child Therapist -Maria Griglio, Children's Law Center -Lisa Szekely, Staff Attorney, Jenesse Center

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES IN 2024

<p>California Health and Human Services Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Statewide Task Force -Subcommittee: Policy and Practice -Subcommittee: Research and Data -Subcommittee: Policy and Practice</p>	<p>Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole Dr. Khushnuma Cooper Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Dr. Jeanette Mann</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services -Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole</p>
<p>Family First Prevention Services Act -Planning and Implementation Work Groups</p>	<p>Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Lou Moore</p>
<p>First 5 LA Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey</p>
<p>Los Angeles County -Faith-Based Collaborative</p>	<p>Dr. Jeanette Mann Lou Moore</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Mandated Supporting Initiative -Subcommittee: AB 2085 Training Supplement Workgroup -Subcommittee: Data Leadership Team</p>	<p>Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection -Permanency Work Group</p>	<p>Lou Moore</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Department of Public Health -Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development</p>	<p>Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey Dora Jacildo (alternate)</p>

Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office -Prevention Services Task Force	Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Reimagine Child Safety Coalition	Roman James
System of Care Work Group (a state-funded initiative)	Tiffany Boyd
Thriving Families, Safer Children Los Angeles Team (a national public/private initiative)	Tiffany Boyd Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK CITED

1. Sheriff's Department's School Resource Deputy Program, Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families, <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/189790.pdf>
2. Report and Recommendations on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's School Resource Deputy Program, Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee, Civilian Oversight Commission, <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/AdHocReport-LASDSchoolResourceDeputies10.19.2023.pdf>

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