THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION (BRCCP)

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Child Welfare Division
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Gabriel Fernandez
“We cannot stand idly by and wait for another child to meet the fate of Gabriel Fernandez”

From the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection

April 2014
Charge of the BRCCP

• Review Child Protection Failures
• Highlight Organizations Barriers to Child Safety
• Create a Plan of Action to Expeditiously Implement Needed Reforms

Commission Activities

• Eighteen Public Hearings
• Over 300 Stakeholder Interviews
• Examination of Twenty Eight Child Fatality Cases
• Review of Promising Practices from Across the Country
Unanimous Conclusion

- A State of Emergency Exists Which Requires a Fundamental Transformation of the Child Protection System
- The safety of children is not solely the responsibility of DCFS
- A reform of the work of multiple agencies is needed

Call for Board of Supervisors Action

- Articulate a Countywide Mission to Prioritize and Improve Child Safety
- Establish an Entity to Oversee One Unified Child Protection System
  - Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection
  - Authority to Recommend to the Board the Movement of Resources and Staff Across Relevant County Departments
- Define Measures of Success and Oversee the Reform Process
- Adopt the Commission's Interim Report Recommendations
- Establish an Oversight Team to Ensure Implementation of Recommendations
Additional Key Recommendations

- Focus on Prevention
- Expand Interdisciplinary Training
- Improve Data Sharing
- Improve Transparency
- Improve Educational Stability
- Include the Voice of Stakeholders in Decision Making

Expand Mental Health Services

- A Clear Mandate that Non-Pharmacological Interventions are Best Practice with Children Whenever Possible
- Mental Health Treatment for Teens and Transition Age Youth Must
  - Incorporate Trauma Focused Assessments and Treatments
  - Developmental Status
  - Ethnicity
  - Sexual Identity
  - Risk of Self-Harm
- Children Age Five and Under Must Have Access to Age Appropriate Mental Health Services
Evidenced-based Mental Health Practices Specifically For Children Ages Birth to Five

• Nearly 200 legal entity provider sites are currently delivering Evidenced Based Practices to the children ages birth to five

• Examples of EBPs provided to birth to five children are:
  • Child-Parent Psychotherapy
  • Incredible Years
  • Nurse-Family Partnership
  • Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
  • Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  • Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)

Evidenced-based Mental Health Practices Specifically For Children Ages Birth to Five

• Over 5,000 DCFS-involved children ages birth to five received an Evidenced Based Practice during FY2011-2012 and FY2012-2013

• The portion of Katie A. Class members who are children ages birth to five and have received mental health services has continued to increase each fiscal year
  • Approximately 7,100 were served in FY2011-2012 and 7,860 were served in FY2012-2013
  • This includes an increasingly large number of infants and toddlers under age 3
BRCCP Transition Team

- Nine member team formed on June 9th
- Mission: to assist in implementation of BRCCP recommendations
- Priority Items
  - Expansion of Medical Hubs as Comprehensive Health/MH Centers for Children in Care
  - Cross Reporting by Law Enforcement
  - Prevention

Beyond the Blue Ribbon Commission:
The Road to Safety and Well-being for our Youngest Children

Sam Chan, Ph.D.
Family and Community Partnerships
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
First 5 LA PCIT Project Goals

- Expand number of agencies that provide PCIT services throughout Los Angeles County
- Develop a self-sustaining network of PCIT training and services
- Increase number of PCIT certified clinicians throughout Los Angeles County
- Establish referral streams for Los Angeles County service agencies and increase availability of PCIT to young children & families

Birth to Five Core Competencies

- Typical/Atypical Development
- Brain Development
- Assessment of Young Children (ICARE)
- Mental Health Dx of Infants and Toddlers (DC: 0-3R)
- Trauma Response in Infants
- Sensory Integration
- Best Practices in Mental Health Intervention
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES and the PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Parent/Caregiver Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Children’s Social and Emotional Competence

LA County Transdisciplinary Leadership Consortium (TLC)

Promotes capacity building in support of comprehensive systems of care within Best Start LA communities and Health Neighborhoods through cross-sector training for representatives from the early care and education, mental health, health care, developmental disability, and child welfare systems.
First 5 LA Priority Outcomes

- **Families**
  increased family protective factors

- **Communities**
  increased community capacity to support and promote the safety, healthy development, and well-being of children 0-5 and their families

- **ECE Systems**
  increased access to quality early care and education

- **Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Systems**
  improved capacity to meet the needs of children 0-5 and their families

Best Start Funding Categories

- **Civic Engagement**
- **Organizational Capacity Building**
- **Social Capital**
- **Community Resource Mobilization**
Best Start Communities

- Broadway-Manchester
- Central Long Beach
- Compton/East Compton
- East LA
- El Monte/South El Monte
- Lancaster
- Metro LA
- Northeast Valley (Pacoima)
- Palmdale
- Panorama City
- Southeast LA
- Watts-Willowbrook
- West Athens
- Wilmington

Health Neighborhoods

*To improve the health and well-being of Los Angeles County residents*

Community Change Model

- Addresses social determinants of health through prevention work in select geographic areas
- Residents, community organizations, and institutions form partnerships to analyze problems, then develop and implement long-term sustainable solutions.

Service Model

- Provides for integration of mental health, health care, and substance use services as well as other community supports within targeted geographic areas or targeted special populations.
Pilot Health Neighborhoods

- Lancaster
- Pacoima
- Boyle Heights
- MLK/Watts/Willowbrook
- Central Long Beach

While we struggle to give our children a better future, we must work now on giving them a better present!