



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2001-2002

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The Commission for Children and Families (Commission) supports the County's effort of being child-focused and family-centered in administering a child welfare system. The Commission, created in 1984 by the Board of Supervisors (Board), serves as an advisor to the Board and provides oversight to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).¹ The Commission's ordinance pertains to all children under the County's supervision, but focus has primarily been on those at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. By engaging in public and private partnerships and inviting community participation, the Commission remains committed to strengthening the capacity for children to be cared for within their communities. Our understanding of the child welfare system and the quality of life for children in the system has been enhanced by the participation of an emancipated youth who participates in Commission activities.

The issues facing the child welfare system in Los Angeles County are varied and complex. Through its general meetings and range of committees, the Commission has provided leadership on many initiatives aimed at improving the care provided to the children, families and communities of Los Angeles County. This Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors highlights the Commission's efforts in FY 2001-02 to address these concerns in a manner that improves outcomes for children and enhances the integration of service delivery, including a focus on Foster Care, Relative Care, Adoption and Education as agreed upon at the Commission's 2001-02 Annual Retreat.

ADOPTION COMMITTEE

In January 2002, the Commission reconvened the Legal Permanency Taskforce as the Adoption Committee with the goal of examining the barriers to achieving legal permanency for children under the supervision of DCFS and to work with DCFS in developing ways to overcome those obstacles. The Adoption Division along with such community stakeholders as the Alliance for Children's Rights, Dependency Court Legal Services (DCLS), Foster Family Agencies, Public Counsel, and Superior Court representatives have contributed to the Committee's effort by providing valuable information regarding their experiences with the adoption process.

Though progress has been made in adoptions as exemplified by the number of Adoption Saturdays held in conjunction with our private sector partners and the completion of the 5000th adoption this year, the Commission and its Committee continue to be concerned with the need for DCFS to implement concurrent

¹ **Children Services Task Force Report, April 1984**
Motion by Supervisor Edelman, April 17, 1984

planning, to shorten the length of time involved with the finalization of adoptions, to reduce the number of backlog cases, to address the lack of adoption services for children in long term foster care, to increase the rate a family receives through the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and to recruit more adoptive families.

The Adoption Handbook was completed this year. It will provide prospective adoptive parents with an understanding of the entire adoptive process as well as indicating the post-adoptive services and resources that are also available. To ensure the wide distribution of the Handbook, the information contained in the Handbook will be available on the Internet.

EDUCATION INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Education for children under the care of the County has been a focus of the Commission for the past eighteen years. It remains a critical issue for all foster youth, yet one that receives very limited attention. There are multiple groups working on this very important aspect of a child's life, but no single comprehensive plan that would include all of the stakeholders has been developed.

The Commission's efforts to improve the quality of education for children in the foster care system has continued through the Education Initiative Committee, a committee chaired jointly by the Commission and DCFS. A Commissioner also serves on the Advisory Board for the State Foster Youth Services grant, administered by LACOE and overseen by the Advisory Board, composed of public and private partners who collaborated in the design and implementation of the project. This grant provides educational services to children/youth residing in group homes. Counselors, community workers, computer specialists, and the program administrator provide services in the following three specific areas:

1. Foster Youth Data System: A data system was designed to capture and track the educational history and critical information of 3,000 children. As a result, CSWs have access to the information by contacting Foster Youth Services. Four other counties are currently replicating the system developed in Los Angeles.
2. Individual Youth Services: Students in 200 group homes received services that include determining accurate credit standing, calculating grade point average, locating transcripts, identifying appropriate educational placements, referring for tutoring or enrichment opportunities and providing personal encouragement and advocacy.
3. Training: Foster Youth Services counselors have worked with DCFS to provide training to CSWs on educational issues for foster youth. The Commission played a key role in developing and implementing training for

school personnel through the Fostering Education Program over the last five years as part of the Education Initiative.

The Commission is concerned about the ending of the Stuart grant that funded an Educational Specialist being located at each Regional office. The Commission strongly feels that every effort should be made to secure funding for these Education Specialists.²

EDUCATION, HEALTH and MENTAL HEALTH INTERNET PASSPORT INITIATIVE

The Commission recognizes the need for a more comprehensive state of the art data system that would capture the critical information regarding a foster youth's educational and medical history and make it easily accessible to the appropriate agencies involved in the child's life. As such, the Commission has worked diligently for the development and implementation of a Health, Education and Mental Health Internet-based Passport for three consecutive years. The Commission has strongly advocated at the state and federal level as well as to the Board of Supervisors for legislation to move this initiative forward. Understanding the importance and benefits of an Internet Passport system the Board has consistently supported legislative initiatives for its implementation. Governor Gray Davis signed into law AB427, which provided \$1.5 million in funding for a pilot Internet-based Passport system in Los Angeles County. Despite recent barriers to the development and implementation of the program, the Commission will continue to collaborate with the CAO, Service Integration Branch (SIB), Chief Information Office (CIO), DCFS and the private sector to bring this system into existence.

EMANCIPATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

As the exit from county services is also an important aspect of readiness, the Commission continues to actively advocate on behalf of foster youth, ages 14 to 21, from both the delinquency and dependency systems toward the effective and comprehensive receipt of emancipation services and successful transition into independence. Through the Emancipation Oversight Committee, which the Commission has chaired since its inception in 1992, the Commission has provided a leadership role in advising the Board of issues, as well as successes relative to the services provided to emancipating youth.

² As of this report's publication, a contract between Los Angeles Unified School District and DCFS is close to being approved. This agreement will provide counselors from several LAUSD districts to assist foster children with educational issues.

**Annual Report
FY 2001-2002**

In July 2001, the Committee gave testimony to the Board regarding 10 key areas of concern:

- 1) The lack of advance planning by the DCFS and implementation of the ILP Budget, especially in light of the poor spending practices of DCFS of ILP funds during the previous two fiscal years;
- 2) The lack of a consistent manager appointed by DCFS to oversee the emancipation program despite recommendations to the Director of DCFS;
- 3) The renewal of ILP related contracts by DCFS without evaluation of the programs and budget decisions being made without comprehensive analysis;
- 4) Delays in the disbursement of ILP funds to youth and the lack of clear eligibility criteria for obtaining funds;
- 5) The lack of data on ILP eligible youth and the need to develop an outcomes and research component;
- 6) Delays in the development of M.O.U.'s and contracts by the DCFS to support transitional housing for youth;
- 7) The lack of training by DCFS for CSWs about the services and programs available to emancipating youth;
- 8) The challenges of ILP coordinators due to their high caseload numbers;
- 9) Non-implementation of previous recommendations made to the Board by both the Auditor-Controller and the Emancipation Oversight Committee and
- 10) The potential loss of key nonprofit agencies that provide emancipation services.

As a result of the Committee's testimony, the Board ordered the CAO to study and revise ILP/Emancipation Services in conjunction with the Commission. The Emancipation Interim and Design Teams under Dr. Sharon Watson's leadership is restructuring emancipation services and is making policy decisions with regard to the ILP budget and service provision. The Committee advocated for a number of improvements which are currently being worked on by the Design Team such as an emancipation website. In addition, an eligibility data and outcome tracking system and a five-year budget are also being developed.

In partnership with the Design Team, the Commission's Emancipation Committee formed an Emancipation Advisory Group chaired by two Commissioners and included many community stakeholders and agencies. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to obtain input from community stakeholders that can then be passed to the Design Team. The first year's report to the Board in September 2002 included the development and implementation of a website to provide emancipating youth with information regarding available services, a five year spending plan for ILP funds, the development of a data tracking system and a

**Annual Report
FY 2001-2002**

summary of outreach to community stakeholders informing them of ILP services and eligibility.

Because the issues of Transitional Housing for emancipated youth are very complex, the Commission, through the Emancipation Oversight Committee, initiated the Housing Roundtable, which consists of County agencies and community stakeholders. The Housing Roundtable provides a forum for providers to discuss issues and problems facing emancipating youth. The information gathered at the Roundtable meetings provides the Advisory Group and the Design team with guidance toward the development of the ILP budget. The Commission also participates in the collaborative efforts of Transition Partners. Transition Partners is comprised of providers in the Pasadena area to address the issues emancipating youth face in SPA 3.

FAMILY PRESERVATION/FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Family Preservation/Family Support Committee reconvened in July 2002 to receive the preliminary report on the evaluation of the Family Preservation program. Since December 2000, the Commission and the Committee requested DCFS to evaluate the effectiveness of both programs. In addition, the Committee had requested that DCFS provide a response to the program audit, which identified such issues of when services should be delivered – front end or back end, and the need for DCFS to make a decision where Family Preservation fell within the continuum of care.

FOSTER CARE TASK FORCE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The Commission's Foster Care Task Force Implementation Committee convened in August 2000 to ensure implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Foster Care Task Force Report, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 1999. The primary focus of the Committee during this fiscal year has been on issues related to quality of life, good health, and safety and survival. The Committee, which includes DCFS representatives and community stakeholders, agreed that this was the best approach to ensure that the recommendations identified in the Task Force Report are addressed in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

The Committee worked successfully with DCFS staff to develop and implement an improved Health and Education Binder (Binder) to tangibly track a child's medical and educational history. It was recommended that the Binder contain documentation of all medical visits, current and previous diagnoses, prescriptions, treatments, immunization records and assessments. The Binder will also address the issue of accountability as to whether a child is receiving appropriate and timely health care. In concert with the Commission's Education Initiative Committee, the Binder will also track educational data, such as, report

cards, Individual Education Plans (IEP), credits, and samples of the child's work. As the DCFS moves toward full implementation of the Binders, the Committee will work with caregivers to receive input regarding methods of ensuring the successful utilization and maintenance of the Binder. In addition, appropriate training will be developed and provided to caregivers and staff to help them understand the importance of compiling accurate information.³

The Foster Care Committee also addressed the issue of multiple placements for a child while under the supervision of DCFS. The Committee and the Commission recommended that the DCFS begin tracking foster homes as to the frequency with which a child is removed and the trend toward issuing seven-day notices from any particular home. This Commission and the Committee are concerned about this issue, as the high rate of mobility a child experiences in the foster care system has a negative impact on their social-emotional and educational well-being. By tracking potential trends on the part of particular group homes, it is envisioned that appropriate steps will be taken to assist group homes manage a child's behavior rather than issue seven-day notice for their removal.

MacLAREN CHILDREN'S CENTER COMMITTEE

The Commission has chaired the MacLaren Children's Center (MCC) Committee for more than 15 years due to its concern with the services and quality of care provided to its residents. After the Commission adopted the MCC Committee's recommendations in June 2001, the Committee presented testimony to the Board of Supervisor's in August 2001 outlining the state of MCC and recommendations for its improvement.⁴ The recommendations included:

- The CAO continue to oversee the operation of MCC;
- The immediate need for the development of placement resources in the community, including Regional Center services;
- The Director of MCC is given full authority and accountability for internal activities, including personnel and budgeting. This recommendation also addressed reporting relationships and integration of services;
- Issues with respect to appropriate recruitment, selection, support and development of staff were addressed;
- Implementation of client assessments and appropriate individualized care plans;
- Reconfiguration of the facility to meet the special needs of residents;

³ At the date of this report's publication, the DCFS reports that approximately 21,000 binders have been distributed. Additionally, 27 of the Taskforce recommendations have been implemented, 19 have partially been implemented and three will not be implemented.

⁴ As of this report's publication, DCFS is making a concentrated effort to rapidly make placements outside of MCC. The population is under 35, and it is anticipated that the closure of MCC is eminent. The Commission believes that its work on MCC, WRAPAROUND and the START units have contributed greatly to license new placements. We are only concerned that there are ample and appropriate placements for children who would otherwise rely on MacLaren.

**Annual Report
FY 2001-2002**

- Implementation of arrest protocols;
- Expansion of the Auditor Controller's role to include independent investigations of alleged reports of neglect and abuse, as well as exit interviews to improve quality assurance;
- Implementation of the Foster Youth Services' Passport, and inclusion of the youth's educational needs as part of the case plan.

The Board adopted many of the Commissions recommendations and as a result MCC provides a more comprehensive system of care for youth residing at the facility. The creation of a Placement Resource Director was instituted, as well as an Ombudsman through the Auditor Controllers Office. Assessments and a case management model have been developed and are being fully utilized by staff. Staffing and budget issues are under the authority of MCC's Director, who reports to the CAO, and an architect has been hired to develop a reconfiguration plan for the facility.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Committee and the Commission advocated for services for youth 18 years and older who reside at MCC, which included the early filing of Social Security Insurance applications, the appropriate transition of youth to adult mental health and Regional Center services. The Committee reviewed the new licensing regulations with a representative from California State Licensing. As a result, the Committee and the Commission successfully urged the Board to support waivers that would allow youth 18 years and older to remain at MCC on a case-by-case basis.

The Reconfiguration Sub-Committee continued to work with the CAO, architects and the Directors of MCC to redesign MCC to meet the unique needs of the high-risk youth residing at the facility. Five million dollars has been allocated to this redesign process.

Since 1997, the Commission and the MCC Committee has promoted and advocated the need for WRAPAROUND services for youth under the County's care as it promotes community stabilization for high risk youth through a comprehensive and integrated approach. WRAPAROUND was successfully implemented in 1999 through a 10-child pilot with the children residing at MCC. The Commission continues to be involved in the Department of Mental Health's development of the WRAPAROUND program in Los Angeles County. Though full implementation has been slow, it should be noted that at the close of this fiscal year providers were identified in each of the eight SPAs.

Two Commissioners also participated in Judge Terry Friedman's Task Force, which was convened to address the number of children/youth placed at

MacLaren Children's Center who were increasingly becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

RELATIVE CARE COMMITTEE

The Commission recognizes the special and unique services that relative caregivers provide to the safety and well-being of the approximate 14,000 children in their care. With approximately sixty percent of children in out-of-home placement residing with a relative, and with the importance of ensuring full implementation of the Board approved Task Force recommendations, the Commission formalized the Relative Caregiver Committee. The Committee has developed a collaborative relationship with the DCFS and includes several members of its Kinship Division, as well as, community stakeholders, relative caregivers and child advocates.

As the Task Force report indicates, expertise is needed to provide relative caregivers with the appropriate type of support to address the specific needs of children as well as the needs of the relative care providers themselves. The DCFS concurred with this recommendation and has hired 6 of the 9 relative care liaisons recommended in the report. The liaisons provide needed community resources to support the needs of children living with relatives as well as the CSWs who work directly with the families. The DCFS has expanded the recommendation to include training of its staff on the benefits of relative placement and the circumstances that might indicate that long-term relative placement is preferable to non-relative adoption or guardianship.

In addition to collaborating with DCFS on the implementation of the Task Force recommendations, the Committee has also focused on the approval process of relative caregivers as outlined by the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the January 15, 2002 implementation of AB1695, requiring the approval of relative care homes using the exact licensing standards as non-relative foster homes. The Committee and the Commission are concerned about the viability of these homes, as frequently, relative caregivers are on fixed incomes and may be unable to make the necessary adjustments to their homes to meet the approval standards. This concern is heightened due to the uncertainty that DCFS has the resources to assist caregivers meet the new approval and more stringent standards. Additionally, the Committee and the Commission have worked with the DCFS with regard to disseminating information about the approval process and the accessibility of LiveScan for relative care providers. The Commission Chair and the Committee Chair attended a series of community forums held in SPA 6 to have first hand knowledge of the concerns being raised by relative caregivers.⁵

⁵ As of this report's publication, 3,800 relative caregiver home assessments have been completed.

The Relative Caregiver Committee worked to develop the State Proposal for Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP) funding. The Committee worked to ensure that DCFS met the requirements and trends for service delivery that the state was looking for in the proposal process. The proposal emphasized collaboration with community-based organizations that have expertise in supporting the needs of relatives and children in relative placement.

300/600 COMMITTEE

The 300/600 Committee continues to be chaired by the Commission with collaborative participation from Department of Mental Health (DMH), DCFS, Probation Commission, Dependency Court Legal Services (DCLS), Chief Administrative Office (CAO), and other community stakeholders. The Committee focuses on identifying youth in the dependency system, who are exhibiting delinquent behavior, in an attempt to intervene and prevent them from entering the probation systems. Largely through the work of the Commission and its Committee, the first Start Taking Action Responsibly Today (START) Unit was implemented at MacLaren Children's Center in 1997. Since that time, the unit has been relocated to Pasadena in an attempt to have one unit in each SPA. The START program employs a multi-agency assessment, case management and therapeutic intervention to lessen the risk of youth who are under the jurisdiction of the dependency system and exhibiting pre-delinquent and/or delinquent behaviors. In a memorandum dated December 5, 2001, the Commission urged the Interagency Children's Services Consortium to support the proposal submitted by the DMH to expand the START program from two units to four with the long-range goal of having a unit in each of the eight SPAs.

In May 2002, there was a threat to EPSDT funding during State budget preparation for the FY 02-03. Since the START units are funded through EPSDT, the Committee analyzed different funding streams to ensure the expansion of the program. At the end of the reporting period, a salient and feasible plan was developed that met with the approval of all County departments and stakeholders involved in service delivery, including DMH, the DCFS, Probation and the CAO. It is the Committee's resolve for the upcoming fiscal year to see the implementation of two new START units and expansion of the program to the remaining SPA regions.

OTHER COMMITTEES

In addition to the above-mentioned committees, other Commission committees include the **Personnel Committee**, the **Nomination Committee** and the **Budget Committee**. While the Personnel and Nomination Committees deal with the internal functions of the Commission, the Budget Committee works with DCFS to provide input to the budgeting process.

COMMISSION REVIEW OF DCFS CASES

In the Commission's capacity to review systemic issues affecting the well being of children, the Commission child cases and makes recommendations to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services. In October 2001, the Commission identified 25 recommendations dealing with systemic issues in areas of health, psychotropic medication, placement, child-care, independent living/emancipation preparation, internal and external communication, monthly visitation, and training. These recommendations were submitted to the Director in an effort to work collaboratively with DCFS to reduce the incidence of serious injuries and deaths to all children under its supervision.

AREAS TO BE STRENGTHENED

- Efforts to align DCFS with the SPA boundaries need to be increased.
- Calls received at the Hotline remain problematic. All calls should be tracked to ensure that each call is appropriately responded to and assessed.
- DCFS' Strategic Plan II lacked input from stakeholders as well as outcome measures.
- Efforts to increase service availability and accessibility in SPA 6 are needed.
- Transitional housing for youth need to be developed.
- Caseload reduction is a longstanding issue that continues to be problematic in the appropriate delivery of services to DCFS clients.
- Effective training to provide line staff with the tools necessary to improve outcomes for children and are in alignment with DCFS' mandate and vision needs to be developed and implemented.
- The "hand-offs" of a child entering protective custody need to be minimized.
- An emphasis on capturing private dollars to enhance services need to be a focus of DCFS.
- The protocols for the use of psychotropic medications need to be revised to ensure child safety and good health.
- Stability and appropriateness of educational placements need to be secured to ensure consistency of educational services provided to foster youth.
- Caregivers need to be provided with appropriate rates for children under their care.
- Efforts need to be made to once again find funding to support educational specialists in DCFS' regional offices.
- Emphasis on the integration of county services and the expansion of family centered programs such as WRAPAROUND, START Units, Family Group Decision Making, and Family to Family to develop a continuum of care to best meet the needs of children and families.
- The inclusion of front-end prevention programs need to be developed and implemented in DCFS

INTEGRATION OF SERVICES: DEVELOPING A SEAMLESS SYSTEM

The Commission firmly believes that without community participation, the creation of a seamless system of care that provides optimal benefits and security to children, families and communities at risk is not possible. In keeping with this belief, the Commission views itself as a community partner that participates on various task forces and committees designed to improve outcomes for children, families and communities in Los Angeles County. Commission activities during this reporting period included:

- **Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care**
A Commissioner represents the Commission on the Policy Roundtable for Child Care whose mission it is to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in Los Angeles County by providing policy recommendations to the Board. In their first year of existence, the Roundtable has established critical community partnerships and has voiced key issues impacting the childcare system.
- **Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group**
A Commissioner represents the Commission on this statewide group convened by Governor Gray Davis in 2001. This group includes 65 stakeholders who are charged with redesigning the State's child welfare system. During this first year, the group has worked carefully to design a plan for which implementation will begin in the next fiscal year.
- **Interagency Children's Services Consortium (Consortium)**
A Commissioner represents the Commission on this Consortium composed of the five county departments—Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Probation, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education. The Consortium has addressed many of the issues raised by the Commission and its MacLaren Committee over the years.
- **Integrated Mental Health and Probation Services Taskforce**
A Commissioner represented the Commission on this Taskforce that culminated in the *Integrated Mental Health and Probation Services Action Plan for Youth and Families*.
- **Zero to 5 Commission (formerly known as Proposition 10)**
A Commissioner represents the Commission on the Proposition 10 Commission, which is focused on funding multiple programs that serve children zero to five years of age and their families. A Commissioner serves as the Commission Liaison to the Warm Line, and as one of the liaisons to the Family Literacy and the Child Abuse Prevention Initiatives.

- **Children's Planning Council**

A Commissioner represents the Commission on the Children's Planning Council, a public/private collaborative created in 1991 by the Board of Supervisors to help improve the lives of children and families. To reach the Vision for Children and make progress on the County's five outcomes of child well-being, the Council focuses its work on: Strengthening Community Capacity; Transforming the Systems that Serve Children and Families; Building Countywide Commitments to Outcomes.

- **Safe Haven Task Force**

A Commissioner represented the Commission on the Task Force that addressed the increase in the number of newborns abandoned. The Board of Supervisors adopted the 12 Task Force Recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Safe Haven Law.

- **Realignment with the Department of Children and Family Services**

The Commission was invited by the CAO and the Director of the Department to begin a dialogue with a consultant to assist in realigning efforts on behalf of children. More than 50 individuals representing the Commission, DCFS, and community stakeholders were involved in the process. The result of this effort was a document prepared by John Ott, *A More Complex Reality* published July 30, 2002. The document provided the Commission with an opportunity to review where we have been, where we are, and where our direction should be focused.

- **Integrated Department of Mental Health and Department of Children and Family Services**

The Commission was involved in the review of the *Integrated Department of Mental Health and Department of Children and Family Services Plan*. The plan includes the co-location of staff and the development of a unit that would be specifically dedicated to address the needs of foster children. To date, this plan has not been implemented.

- **Children's Court Parking Fee Committee**

A Commissioner represents the Commission on this committee, which has the responsibility of allocating a portion of the revenue generated from parking fees at the court. This revenue is allocated to enhance capital and programmatic needs at Children's Court.

- **Family Group Decision Making Oversight Committee**

A Commissioner represents the Commission on this committee convened by Judge Michael Nash. This committee provides oversight of DCFS Family Group Decision Making program.

- **A Challenge to Change: Mission Possible**
A joint venture between the Commission for Children and Families, the Mental Health Commission, the Probation Commission, Los Angeles County Office of Education and Probation Department staffs researched and developed "A Challenge to Change - Mission Possible." This resulted in a pilot after-school visual and performing arts program at Camp Glenn Rockey. As a result of the successful pilot with the execution of a mural "Peace Among the Cultures", an on-going visual and performing arts program has been established at the camp.
- **B.E.S.T. ARTS Project (Building Educational Success Through the Arts)**
This concept was conceived and endorsed by the Commission for Children and Families and the Mental Health Commission in 1999. B.E.S.T. ARTS is based on the concept that a preschool environment heavily enriched in music, drama, art, and dance can greatly affect the positive growth and development of a child and can lay the foundation for the child attaining future educational success and learning necessary life skills. This year marked the third annual B.E.S.T. ARTS Conference.
- **Metropolitan State Hospital Youth Steering Committee**
A Commissioner participates on the Youth Steering Committee at Metropolitan State Hospital. More than 50 percent of the county beds at this facility are filled with children under the supervision of DCFS. The focus of this committee is to evaluate and assess service delivery and quality of care delivered at the hospital. The Commission also remains involved with The Art of Healing Children program at the hospital.

APPRECIATION DAY

The Commission has an established program to publicly acknowledge the contribution of special volunteers, children's advocates and others who work toward improving programs and services for the children of Los Angeles County. During this reporting period, the Commission honored Judge Terry Friedman, Walt Kelly and Ron Johnson for their significant contributions.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

July 16, 2001

- CORE Academy Redesign: Trish Ploehn, DCFS

August 20, 2001

- Children's Inspector General: Mike Watroski

**Annual Report
FY 2001-2002**

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Ronald Poprosky, Cecilia Custodio, Joi Russell, DCFS

September 5, 2001

- Metropolitan State Hospital Update: John Hatakeyama, DMH
- Consortium WRAPAROUND: Susan Edelman, CAO
- Family Group Decision Making: Joselyn Rosenthal, DCFS

September 17, 2001

- Relative Care Status Report: Anita Bock, DCFS
- Update on Adoptions: Emma Montero, Loc Nguyen, Diane Wagner, Karen Sims, DCFS, Jenny Weisz, Public Counsel

October 1, 2001

- Faith Based Family Programs: Peggy Belcher-Dixon
- Update on Human Resources Issues: Harvey Kawasaki, DCFS
- Update on Child Protection Bureau: Eric Marts, DCFS

October 15, 2001

- Foster Youth Services: Pat Levinson, LACOE
- International Day of the Child/Recruitment of Mentors for Children at Risk: Daphna Zimon

November 5, 2001

- Child Care Policy Roundtable: Kathy Malaske-Samu, Executive Director
- Model Assessment for Children: Bruce Saltzer, Executive Director, ACHSA

November 19, 2001

- Proposition 10 Update: Beth Lowe, Commissioner, Prop 10
- Mental Health Update: John Hatakeyama, Deputy Director, DMH

December 3, 2001

- Mental Health Court: Judge Terry Friedman

January 7, 2002

- State of the Agency: Anita Bock, DCFS
- DCFS Strategic Plan– Phase II: Carolyn Jones, DCFS
- Children’s Planning Council - Strategic Plan: Yolie Aguilar, Executive Director

January 28, 2002

- From Cradle to K: Marge Nichols, United Way
- Dependency Services: Anne Fragasso, Ken Sherman, DCLS
Rosemarie Belda, County Counsel

**Annual Report
FY 2001-2002**

February 4, 2002

- C.A.O. Emancipation Review: Sharon Watson, Ph.D.

March 4, 2002

- DCFS FY 2002-03 Budget Presentation: Tito Barin, DCFS

April 1, 2002

- Relative Caregiver Approval Process: Beverly Muench,

April 15, 2002

- American Humane Association RFP Development: Bill Henry, Myles Edwards
Eric Marts, DCFS
- Co-Location/Asset Management: Alisa Drakodaidis, Sharon Yonashiro, CAO,
Ed Haynes, SPA 6

April 25, 2002

- Joint Commission Meeting: Probation Commission and Mental Health
Commission

May 6, 2002

- Foster Children's Resource Center: Kathy Bohn, Assistance League

May 20, 2002

- DCFS Training Academy and Tuition Reimbursement Program: Trish Ploehn

June 4, 2002

- SPA 4 Work Plan: Vannia de la Cuba, Coordinator
- Parents Anonymous: Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and CEO

June 17, 2002

- Juvenile Mental Health Court - Judge Clifford Klein
- Foster Children's Education Literature Review: Nancy Shea, Mental Health
Advocacy Services
- Educational Needs of Foster Children: Brenda Parks, LA County Coordinating
Council

LOOKING AHEAD

The Commission for Children and Families continues to move forward and remains open to innovative solutions to improve outcomes for children, families and communities in Los Angeles County. The Commission's work would not be possible without the partnership of the many community stakeholders that share in our vision of an integrated service delivery system that helps to keep children safe, supported and at the forefront of the County's agenda.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

First Supervisorial District

Lily Griego
Adelina Sorkin, Chair

Second Supervisorial District

Dr. La-Doris McClaney
Reverend G. Lind Taylor
Harriette Williams, Vice Chair

Third Supervisorial District

Carol Oughton Biondi, Vice Chair
Phalen G. Hurewitz
Helen Kleinberg

Fourth Supervisorial District

Robert McCaman
Sandra Rudnick
Janet Teague

Fifth Supervisorial District

Jana S. Cooley
Patricia Curry
Daisy Ma