

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

MAY 9, 2017

SUPPORTING NEW RESOURCE FAMILY RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

In Los Angeles County (County), there are approximately 35,000 youth involved in the child welfare system, more than 17,000 of whom are in out-of-home care. One of the most pressing challenges in caring for these children is the identification, recruitment, assessment, approval, support, and retention of families that can provide stable and supportive homes. The number of foster homes in the County declined by 52 percent between 2005 and 2015 while the number of adoptions remained the same, yet the number of children entering out-of-home care increased during that same period. Since the State’s implementation of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) on January 1, 2017, even more caretakers will be needed because CCR requires counties to decrease placements of children in congregate care settings in favor of placements in home-based family settings. Under CCR, caretakers who become approved to provide foster or adoptive homes for children in out-of-home care are now known collectively as *resource families*. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) estimates that the number of newly approved resource family homes must be increased by 25 percent annually to address the existing shortfall and accommodate attrition rates. As a result, DCFS has identified the recruitment of new resource families as a top priority.

In support of this priority, DCFS is partnering with the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (CSPPP), faith-based institutions, and philanthropic organizations to host a one-day convening on June 3, 2017 for prospective resource families in South Los

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Angeles, where the need is urgent and critical. This event will offer multiple services under one roof in order to expedite the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process by processing several RFA requirements in one place and on one day. This event will serve as an innovative and pioneering approach, allowing DCFS to test the “one stop-shop” model in South Los Angeles. DCFS plans to learn from this event in order to build on its strengths and replicate the model throughout the County.

CSPPP has partnered with the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative to invest \$30,000 to support the design of this first-of-its-kind model. These funds have been designated for this event within Southern California Grantmakers, the fiscal agent for the CSPPP. To maximize the event’s success and track its outcomes, there is a need for the County to match this amount. Funds are available through the 2016-17 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support award that DCFS received from the State to engage in innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and support resource families.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Acting Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to use up to \$30,000 from the Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support award to match Southern California Grantmakers’ investment to support the June 3, 2017 Resource Family Recruitment Convening;
2. Instruct DCFS and the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (CSPPP) to develop target outcomes and metrics for the convening; and
3. Instruct DCFS and CSPPP to report back in writing in 60 days on event outcomes and lessons learned that can be applied to future convenings throughout the County.

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