

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
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DECEMBER 18, 2012

Promoting Child Safety Through Stronger Data Coordination

On October 12, 2010 the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back with a plan to designate a single entity within the County of Los Angeles (County) to track and compile data on child abuse, neglect and deaths. Furthermore, on October 11, 2011 the Board directed the Interim Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in conjunction with the CEO and all affected agencies that partner in child welfare services to report back quarterly on a mechanism to compile the information related to child abuse, neglect and deaths in a meaningful way to inform Board policy on child safety, permanency and self-sufficiency.

While this data collected to date has yielded many insights, the County still lacks consistent protocols with which to compile and aggregate this critical information. As a result, various County departments report children’s data inconsistently and data

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reporting differences exist from department to department.

Inconsistent countywide data collection practices and definitions make it difficult for the Board to develop appropriate responsive and preventive measures.

An identified, single County entity needs to be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive and standardized countywide practice that all affected departments can follow to accurately report key child health and wellness indicators. This single entity would ensure data was collected and reported consistently, enabling the Board to develop informed policies to promote child wellness and safety.

**THEREFORE, WE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** direct the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Directors of the Department of Children and Family Services, Health Services and Public Health, the Office of the Coroner, and County Counsel to report back within 45 days and identify:

- a. An existing County entity to serve as the responsible entity for compiling data related to child safety indicators. The proposed entity shall also be responsible for collecting and periodically reporting aggregate data on those indicators to the Board of Supervisors in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the child, aligns with the Board's direct oversight of the Department of Children and Family Services and informs future policy development;
- b. A proposed standardized countywide protocol for reporting key child safety indicators;

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- c. Ten to fifteen proposed key child wellness indicators on which Los Angeles County departments should uniformly report that would best enable the Board of Supervisors to discern trends and adopt responsive preventive policies that promote increased child safety and wellness, especially among infants; and
- d. A proposed timeline, staffing model, and reporting schedule.

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