



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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## COMMISSIONERS

**Chairperson**  
ADELE ANDRADE-STADLER

**Vice Chairperson**  
VERONICA LEWIS

JOE BROWN  
YVONNE CHAN, Ed.D.  
SUE ELHESSEN, Ed.D.  
RAUL ESTRADA  
MICHAEL FLOOD  
MIHRAN KALAYDJIAN  
MARY GALVAN ROSAS  
BOOKER PEARSON  
PAIGE PELONIS  
LORI C. STEIN  
DYNASTY TAYLOR

## COMMISSION STAFF

**Executive Director**  
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

**Commission Secretary**  
TINA PHAN

## MEETING MINUTES via TELECONFERENCE

Thursday, April 21, 2022  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please note this is a summary of the meeting not a “verbatim” transcription.

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. A quorum was established at 10:55a.m.

#### Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Adele Andrade-Stadler	Summer McBride
Veronica Lewis	Booker Pearson
Raul Estrada	Sue ElHessen
Yvonne Chan	Joe Brown
Dynasty Taylor	

#### Commissioners Absent:

Michael Flood (E)	Lori Stein (E)
Mary Galvan Rosas (U)	Paige Pelonis (U)
Mihran Kalaydjian (E)	

#### Commission Staff:

La France Toliver  
Tina Phan

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS	Elizabeth Becerra, DPSS
Delfino Neira, DPSS	Joel Diaz, DPSS
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel	Rosa Maria Santana, DPSS

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

There were no written nor verbal comments from the public on Agenda/Non-Agenda Items.

**3.0 IN LOVING MEMORY OF: COMMISSIONER FRANK G. DE BALOGH**

**Chairperson Adele Andrade-Stadler** - I was shocked and saddened to hear of the recent passing of our Commissioner, Dr. Frank G. De Balogh. He was very passionate and advocated for our veterans and General Relief (GR) populations. He constantly reminded us of those who needed the most care. I appreciated his advocacy and hopefully his words will carry forward and inspire others. The Chair opened the floor for comments from commission members and staff.

**La France Toliver** - Commissioner Frank G. De Balogh was a vibrant force for those who were less fortunate. He served on this Commission for 25 years and was rarely absent. From the moment I arrived over 10 years ago, Commissioner De Balogh always gave me my grade for how well the commission meeting went, how responsive I was or how well the holiday gala went. I did not realize it at the time, but that was the teacher, scholar, and professor in him raising the bar of excellence in me. He will be missed.

**Joe Brown** - My condolences have been expressed to his wife Judy De Balogh and Frank De Balogh Jr. Frank and I go back to when we were military personnel in 1968. We fought in the same war but were in different locations. Frank encouraged me by letting me know that I had more coming to me than just a GI Bill. When I first came to the Commission, one of the challenges both Frank and I had was how we could effectively continue to advocate change on behalf of veterans and disenfranchised persons throughout Los Angeles County. I learned and picked up a lot of nuggets from Frank down through the years. We tackled various gang related issues in Long Beach, Compton, Pasadena, and Altadena in the Fifth Supervisorial District. We were able to accomplish these things due to Frank pushing and nudging to speak on these issues and discuss what was going on in our communities. Frank will be missed.

**Booker Pearson** - During my 10 years as a commissioner, I have never known Frank to miss a meeting unless he was physically ill. He always brought his wife and son to holiday celebrations each year. Sometimes we did not have a lot of participants, but we could always count on Frank and his family. Not only was he a champion for veterans, but for racial disparity and, in general, an advocate for the underserved and impoverished. I personally will miss Frank. He was a good man, and the commission will not be the same. Thank you, Madame Chair, for setting aside this time for Frank's memory.

**Dr. Sue ElHessen** – What a beautiful legacy Commissioner Frank De Balogh is leaving not only for the Commission, but for his commitment to veterans and disadvantaged populations that we service in our constituent base. What we did share together is that we were both graduates from USC and I appreciated him very much for his insight. He will be missed, but he lived a very rich and bountiful life all of us can hope to live.

**Dr. Yvonne Chan** – I joined the commission a few months before the COVID lockdown. I remember always sitting across from Dr. De Balogh and he had this very comfortable way of expressing himself, very thoughtful, and he mentored me after the commission meeting when I had certain questions. I remember there was a letter that he co-signed on with Commissioner Brown and I was not quite understanding the issue and process. He took the time to go through each paragraph explaining some of the historical/current issues to help me with my perspective and the role of the commission. I felt his passion, I will miss him. He will always be with us.

**Veronica Lewis** – I want to thank everyone for taking time to honor such a great man. I echo what everyone else has said. Commissioner De Balogh had a passion for veterans. I am thankful I had the opportunity to serve along with him on this commission. He was an example and always took great pride in his role as a commissioner and took it very seriously. He was a stickler for process and protocol. In a world that is extremely topsy turvy, I really appreciated the example that he provided. Twenty-five years is an extensive time for commitment and dedication to what DPSS is doing. He will be greatly missed, and I am praying for his family.

**Dynasty Taylor** – I have only been on the commission for a few months. I did not get to know him that well, but I believe that because of his work it made space for people like me to be apart of this commission. Thank you for giving me a space to speak.

**Antonia Jiménez** - I am going to miss him because he was such a champion for veterans and the GR population. Whether his requests were within the Department's purview or not, he would try to force the Department to do it. To me, that is a sign of a person that cares about the population he was concerned with. There were times we could not fulfill his request, but I always applauded his efforts to keep veterans and the GR population at the forefront, which is critical.

He pushed for the hiring of veterans within the Department. As a result, DPSS hired a record number of veterans through the countywide Veteran Internship Program (VIP). He will be missed. He was a force to be reckoned with. I loved going to the Fifth District's annual memorial event for veterans, where Supervisor Barger attended. Commissioner De Balogh would show up in full military uniform. We took pictures together and I could see the pride and the joy that he had in being a veteran. This pride ran through his consciousness, his veins, and his blood. He was a true veteran and an honorable man.

**Raul Estrada** - My biggest recollection is that when I became a commissioner, he made me feel welcomed. He went out of his way to say a few words of encouragement. I will never forget that. What I admire about him is that he did not beat around the bush. He tackled it when there were difficult things to discuss. He was very direct and tactful, and I respected that about him. I learned a lot from just watching him. I could see him thinking about what he was going to say before speaking and when the time was right, he would make his point. I really had admiration and respect for him.

#### 4.0 **REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 2022 MEETING**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

**MOTION:** Commissioner Estrada moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner ElHessen seconded the motion. No changes. No further discussion.

**CALL FOR VOTE:** Minutes were approved by majority vote with one abstention as follows:

Adele Andrade-Stadler - Aye	Summer McBride - Aye
Veronica Lewis - Aye	Booker Pearson - Aye
Raul Estrada - Aye	Sue ElHessen - Aye
Yvonne Chan - Abstained	Joe Brown - Aye
Dynasty Taylor - Aye	

#### 5.0 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Ms. Jiménez provided updates on the following topics:

Effective April 1, 2022, **Brandon Nichols** was selected to serve as Interim Director for the Department of Children and Family Services and **Dawyn Harrison** was selected to serve as Acting County Counsel.

Federal government has decided to continue sending the **CalFresh Emergency Allotment** until the feds lifts the public health moratorium. As of March 2022, DPSS has issued CalFresh Emergency Allotment benefits, totaling over \$2.4 Billion.

Beginning July 1, 2022, **direct deposit** will be required for **IHSS provider payments**. Providers must enroll in direct deposit with a checking or savings account or a pay card. Enrollment can be done online using the Electronic Services Portal (ESP) or by submitting the IHSS/WPCS Provider Direct Deposit Enrollment/Change/ Cancellation Form. Providers who need assistance with direct deposit enrollment are being referred to the State IHSS Service Desk at (866) 376-7066.

I am pleased to announce that the performance issues associated with the scanning vendor have been resolved. Therefore, LA County will migrate to **BenefitsCal** on April 25, 2022. The CalSAWS project will provide many training materials for individuals and non-profits, including webinars, Youtube videos, etc. The weekend, before going live, our Call Centers will be down to ensure the migration is successful on Monday, the 25th.

Each year DPSS provides **free tax preparation services** to eligible DPSS customers via our **VITA Program**. I am happy to report that this year, we were able to assist over 130 families with filing their income tax returns and obtaining a tax refund.

Our Toy Loan and Volunteer Services Section is hosting this year's **Help Everyone Reach Out (HERO)** Project Donation Drive. This initiative will assist in providing hygiene products (face masks, socks, shampoo, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc.) to our homeless community agencies throughout LA County. If you are interested in donating, please let La France know so that she may connect you with our Volunteer Services Program by no later than Thursday, May 19, 2022.

I am happy to share that **DPSS Assistant Director, Michael Sylvester** and the **Department's Information Technology (IT)** team have been selected by International Data Group's CIO Awards to receive the agency's annual CIO Hall of Fame and CIO 100 awards celebrating organizations and executives nationwide for driving IT innovation. Mr. Sylvester was chosen to be inducted into the agency's CIO Hall of Fame for leadership.

The IT team was recognized for its **Outbound Text Campaign**, which reached 2.5 million households with timely information about countywide food giveaways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ARPA)**

Communications and Project Management Division  
Elizabeth Becerra, Division Chief

Ms. Elizabeth Becerra, Mr. Joel Diaz, and Ms. Rosa Santana provided updates the following information:

Community engagement at DPSS is working diligently to strengthen our communication and engagement with our community-based organizations. We continue to build trust with community partners; improve our decision-making and demonstrate the value of DPSS' services. We are working with LGBTQ+ advocacy; Child welfare/youth advocacy; support for domestic violence survivors; promoting food security advocacy for justice-involved individuals; free neighborhood community clinics; support for people experiencing homelessness; job training and equitable employment advocacy; helping individuals with substance abuse and support for veterans within our underserved communities.

There are 2,072 external community agency partners- 1,825 are community-based organizations and nonprofit community clinics; 168 are faith-based organizations; and 79 are government agencies. Many of the agencies and non-profits on our list primarily serve low-income households and underserved communities throughout the five supervisorial districts.

DPSS has \$500,000 to help communities through CBOs with limited infrastructure and resources – eligibility for partnerships. \$20,000 grants will be going to 25 CBOs that serve either Asian, API, Seniors or LGBTQ+ populations to increase the number of eligible residents on CalFresh to reduce food insecurity and create a blueprint for effective community engagement and investment. In addition to our virtual community meetings, we also engage our GovDelivery distribution platform that allows us to directly communicate with our 52,091 and growing subscribers. Information is shared through our Essential DPSS Newsletter, press releases, and surveys to our non-profits. We currently have over 40,000 followers on our social media platforms. To sign up for GovDelivery updates, send us an email to DPSS [PublicInfo@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:PublicInfo@dpss.lacounty.gov).

**Special Announcement:** Director Jiménez closed by announcing she will be leaving the position as LA County DPSS Director, effective 5/20/22. She is pursuing another career in the consulting world. This was a very difficult decision, but she now has the opportunity to work with Health & Human Services on a national level. She is currently working with the Board to ensure a smooth transition.

Commissioners congratulated Director Jiménez on a job well done at DPSS. She will be greatly missed, and they wished her the best in her new career. Chair Andrade-Stadler stated Director Jiménez has done an incredible job as Director. Thank you for your dedication to our less fortunate families. You have always been very professional, and it's been an honor working with you; under your leadership, especially on the ground level, giving out the backpacks, food, and all those things that people don't really see you do behind the scenes. I appreciate all the grassroots work you have done.

## **7.0 CONTINUED BUSINESS**

None.

## **8.0 COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE TOPICS**

**Follow up Items:** (1) Dr. Sue ElHessen requesting presentation on Disability and Aging formed by Supervisor Janice Hahn, and update on new legislation for IHSS and how it impacts constituents. (2) Vice-Chair Veronica Lewis requesting presentation on IHSS update/report and (3) Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE), as well as (4) share the County's draft strategic plan on transforming the County to be equitable through ARDI and Listening sessions.

**9.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

None.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.