



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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<https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/about/pss.html>



COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson
ADELE ANDRADE-STADLER

Vice Chairperson
SUE ELHESSEN, Ed.D.

JOE BROWN
JONI BYUN
YVONNE CHAN, Ed.D.
MICHAEL FLOOD
SAM JOO
MIHRAN KALAYDJIAN
POLLYANNA LEE
VERONICA LEWIS
SUMMER MCBRIDE
BOOKER PEARSON
DYNASTY TAYLOR
ANDREW YAM

COMMISSION STAFF

Executive Director
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

Commission Secretary
VACANT

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Location #1: Exposition Park District
3833 S. Vermont Avenue, 3rd Floor Conference Room B
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Location #2: ElHessen Home Office
9433 Ives Street
Bellflower, CA 90706

Location #3: Porter Ranch Library
11371 Tampa Ave
Porter Ranch, CA 91326

Location #4: Andrade-Stadler Home Office
2956 West Shorb Street
Alhambra, CA 91803

Location: #5: Manhattan Beach Library
1320 Highland Avenue Room B
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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 10:02 a.m. Commissioners Andrade-Stadler, ElHessen, Kalaydjian and Pearson attended the meeting from an alternate location under the Brown Act Teleconferencing rules. A quorum was established at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Chair)	Summer McBride
Sue ElHessen, Ed.D. (Vice Chair)	Pollyanna Lee
Joni Byun	Booker Pearson
Sam Joo	Dynasty Taylor
Mihran Kalaydjian	Andrew Yam

Chairperson Andrade Stadler asked Commissioner Joni Byun if she could introduce herself to the commission body. Commissioner Byun thanked the Chair for the recognition and shared about her background. She is happy to be a part of the commission body.

Commissioners Absent:

Yvonne Chan, Ed.D
Veronica Lewis

Michael Flood
*Joe Brown (observed virtually)

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Veronica Zamora

Introduction of Guests

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D., DPSS
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel
Shawn Luna, County Counsel

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

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

No public comment written, online, or in-person.

3.0 PSS COMMISSION ANNUAL AWARD VIRTUAL CEREMONY

The Commission recognized 23 DPSS employees for their work and service excellence as recommended by their Chief Deputies and Bureau Directors. The following individuals were recognized:

Wai-Ting (Margaret) Chung, ASM II - (Chief Deputy – DPSS Administration)
Ferdinand Tolentino, CPM (Contract Administration & Monitoring Division - BAS)
Jerron Jackson, ASM II (Property Management & Strategic Space Plan - BAS)
Nonye Okorie, ISA II (Office Automation and Systems Support - BCTS)
Juan Figueroa, Senior Application Developer (Business Intelligence - BCTS)
Freddy Mozo, ASM II – (Employee Relations Unit - BHR)
Montserrat Gomez, Management Analyst (Human Capital Management Branch - BHR)
Jose J. Gonzalez, Program Assistant (Medi-Cal & IHSS Program Division - BPP)
Javier Corral, HSA I (Health Care Reform Section - BPP)
Omaira Negrete, ES, (Customer Service Center V - BPP)
Jacqueline Larios-Becerra, HSA I (Customer Service Center Operations - BPP)
Rayan Lam, Program Assistant (CalFresh Nutrition Program Section - BPP)
Ofelia Neri, HSA I (START Program - BPP)
Sergio Leoni, Medium Truck Driver (Toy Loan & Volunteer Program - BSO)
MiEsha Gant, Social Services Supervisor (IHSS Region IV - BSO)
Blanca Chavez, Social Services Supervisor (IHSS Region V- BSO)
Gloria Sheppard, Supervising Welfare Fraud Investigator (WFP&I - BSO)

Sarah Glover, Supervising Clerk (West Valley District - BWS North)
Leticia Huerta, HSA I (Medi-Cal Outreach - BWS North)
Monica Luna, Eligibility Supervisor, (Metro Family District- BWS North)
Adriana Sandoval Dehernandez, Eligibility Supervisor (Lincoln Heights - BWS South)
Laura Garcia-Fuentes, Eligibility Supervisor (Rancho Park - BWS South)
Heidy Murillo, GAIN Services Supervisor (West County GAIN Region I - BWS South)

Chairperson Andrade Stadler gave special thanks to Dr. Jackie Contreras, DPSS Executive Staff and our DPSS Honorees for their commitment to excellence and outstanding service assisting our most vulnerable in Los Angeles County.

4.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE JANUARY 18, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 18, 2023, minutes. Commissioner ElHessen approved, and Commissioner Kalaydjian seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote by roll call and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote as follows:

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Chair) - Aye	Summer McBride - Aye
Sue ElHessen, Ed.D. (Vice Chair) - Aye	Pollyanna Lee - Aye
Joni Byun - Aye	Booker Pearson - Aye
Sam Joo - Aye	Dynasty Taylor - Aye
Mihran Kalaydjian - Aye	Andrew Yam - Aye

5.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D., Director

Dr. Contreras provided an update on the following topics:

The Board Made the following Proclamations for the month of February 2024: African American History Month highlighting and acknowledging notable African Americans who have contributed to their respective professions. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month encouraging all County employees and residents to be aware of warning signs of teen dating violence, and to connect youth survivors with trusted adults and providers who provide dating/domestic/intimate partner violence supportive services. National Children's Dental Health Month throughout LA County and urge the Department of Public Health to do outreach to residents, schools, and community organizations to join in this observance. In addition, the Board has also proclaimed: February 2, National Wear Red Day spreading awareness about women's heart health. Spay/Neuter Awareness Month promoting no-cost and low-cost spay/neuter services on County and Department of Animal Care and Control websites and social media accounts, including other resources and services provided by community rescues and organizations, for the month of February.

Celebrate the Arts During Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of African American achievements and their central role in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

This year's theme is "African Americans and the Arts," highlighting African Americans' impactful contributions to visual arts, cultural movements, music, and more. For a list of events in L.A. County, visit [2024 Black History Month Events](#).

DPSS is offering a BenefitsCal Webinar which will teach participants the right way to upload documents to avoid common mistakes. The class will be Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Space is limited! Customers can register at: <https://forms.office.com/g/upifcc8TD6>. These sessions will provide information (in English and Spanish) on uploading food, cash aid, and health coverage benefit documents, relating to a DPSS Case or Application, using the BenefitsCal Portal. Disclaimer: These sessions are not intended for questions regarding individual applications or cases, benefits, EBT account, or other personal case information.

Follow up Item: Commissioner Yam stated, in reference to the BenefitsCal Webinars is DPSS providing any sort of programming/training through our webinars that teach basic computer skills if the individual was not able to access some of the training webinars offered through IHSS. He thinks it is just expected that individuals know how to use zoom and I think that is not necessarily the case. Are we adding to our efforts to target populations that are not currently being the most effectively served? Dr. Contreras stated we can do a little research. I believe other county departments may provide this kind of

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Andrade Stadler asked our newly appointed Commissioner Joni Byun if she could introduce herself to the commission body. Commissioner Byun thanked the Chair for the recognition, she represents the Third Supervisorial District. She shared about her background. She is a American Heart Association volunteer, it is her passion. Commissioner Byun is a non-profit consultant. She was thinking that it would be great to provide training the trainer for nonprofits to help in different languages, to sign up for these services. She is happy to be a part of the commission.

Chairperson Andrade Stadler announced Dr. Carrie Miller was not able to make it to the meeting today. Commission staff will reschedule her to attend at a future meeting.

Follow up Item: Vice Chair ElHessen asked does the Department have anything in place that would address emergency preparedness for IHSS caregivers and Social Workers? She has worked with the cities, LA County Fire Chief and Sheriff regarding emergency preparedness / CERT Training for our most vulnerable population. She asked if caregivers and social workers can take this training. Her concern is (based on what emergency responders told her) that when there is a crisis or emergency situation, they cannot go to every single call.

If there were competing emergencies between a school and nursing care facility (both are of equal distance), the emergency response team would go to the school first. This made me think from a broader perspective how important the CERT training is.

7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.