



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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## **COMMISSIONERS**

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DYNASTY TAYLOR  
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## **COMMISSION STAFF**

**Executive Director**  
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

**Commission Secretary**  
TINA PHAN

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 18, 2023**

**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

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 10:06 a.m. The following statement was read, “We acknowledge the First peoples upon whose land the County of Los Angeles now sits at public meetings is a first but meaningful step that we, as a County family, can take to build positive relationships and advance truth, healing, and transformation with the County’s local Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native community.”

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 10:06 a.m.

#### **Roll Call/Commissioners Present:**

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Chair)	Summer McBride
Sue ElHessen, Ed.D. (Vice Chair)	Pollyanna Lee
Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.	Veronica Lewis
Sam Joo	Booker Pearson
Michael Flood	Dynasty Taylor
Mihran Kalaydjian	Andrew Yam

#### **Commissioners Absent:**

Joe Brown

\*Joni Byun – observed meeting virtually.

**Commission Staff:**

La France Toliver  
Veronica Zamora

**Introduction of Guests**

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D., DPSS	Jose Martinez, DPSS
Regina Adkins-Williams, DPSS	Shawn Luna, County Counsel
Noemi Castro, DPSS	

**2.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE NOVEMBER 16, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

The Chair called for a motion to approve the November 16, 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	Veronica Lewis - Aye
Sue ElHessen, Ed.D. (Vice Chair) - Aye	Summer McBride - Aye
Michael Flood - Aye	Booker Pearson - Aye
Sam Joo - Aye	Mihran Kalaydjian - Aye

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items) / (Agenda Items)**

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

In Person - Miss Jama Shanniqua provided comments under non-agenda items.  
Virtually - Li Chia, NLSLA provided comments under Agenda Item 5 discussing CAPI and Medi-Cal.

**4.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D., Director

Dr. Contreras provided an update on the following topics:

I am pleased to announce Supervisor Lindsay Horvath is the new Chair of the Board. The Board made the following proclamations for the month of January 2024: Homeless Count Week 2024 - will take place January 23-25. This count is a federally mandated (point-in-time) enumeration of the individuals experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County. Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month - throughout Los Angeles County, to recognize and bring awareness to occupational cancer in fire service to help fire fighters reduce their exposure and to support those who have been diagnosed; and recognizing the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of "Korean American Day" – on January 13, 2024.

We have exciting news to share about a new law that went into effect this month. Effective January 1, 2024, adults 26 through 49 years of age can access full scope Medi-Cal service regardless of immigration status. You will be hearing more about this from our presenters today.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) opened its registration for the Annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. As previously mentioned, the 2024 Count will be conducted this month, January 23-25. Community members across the greater Los Angeles area will count their neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. The count will help paint a picture of the progress, trends, and shifts in the fight to end homelessness. I encourage all to help make this homeless count possible by volunteering in your community. You and your team can register to participate as DPSS volunteers on the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count website at <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/>

Since 2005, DPSS staff have played an important role in assisting the families we serve file their tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This past VITA season, our remarkable DPSS volunteers helped 118 DPSS families file their federal and state income tax returns at no cost. As a result of the collective efforts of DPSS volunteers, these families received a total of over \$309,000 in tax refunds, including more than \$140,000 Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). For this upcoming 2024 tax season, I am excited to announce an expansion of DPSS' VITA services. We have established a valuable collaboration with Los Angeles County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA). This partnership will allow our committed volunteers to offer their services at multiple locations across the County.

**Follow up item:** DPSS to provide a report back on the collaboration with DCBA and the expansion of VITA Services at a future meeting.

Normally, I provide an update on our CSCs today. As you may know, our CSCs transitioned to Amazon Connect on November 17, 2023, changing our entire call center system, including reporting. As such, we do not have our regularly scheduled quarterly update for you today. We are working with the project to test and ensure validation of the reports and will share that information as soon as it is available. We have definitely seen an increase in our wait times, and I have traditionally reported those times to you. We make every effort to remain transparent in providing this information.

Last year, there was some discussion about IHSS caseload and increased IHSS funding DPSS received. I promised to have my staff conduct an analysis concerning this use of these funds. I am pleased to announce the increased funding will allow us to hire 100 new Social Workers and 12 new Social Worker Supervisors. We are currently in the process of hiring for these positions. This does not completely meet the need, but it does move us in the right direction to continue advocating for more resources to fulfill those needs.

**Follow up item:** Commissioner Lewis asked what are the current IHSS caseload and what will it be reduced to?

**Follow up item:** Commissioner Flood spoke on legislative advocacy concerning CalFresh and the Hurdles with approvals and denials. With additional waiver impacts coming, it seems as though we are going backwards. He asked Ms. Toliver to share an article link for commissioners to read concerning this topic.

## 5.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation: Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)  
Regina Adkins-Williams, Human Services Administrator III  
GR Program Section

Ms. Adkins-Williams provided the following overview of the CAPI Program:

The Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) is a 100% state-funded program, which provides cash benefits to aged, blind, and disabled documented non-citizens who are ineligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) solely due to their immigrant status.

Basic CAPI eligibility requirements: (1) A non-citizen must be a documented immigrant, or a Qualified immigrant lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (U.S.), or a (2) Person Residing Under the Color of Law (PRUCOL) Immigrant - an undocumented immigrant permanently residing in the U.S. under the Color of Law. PRUCOL is a term that generally describes immigrants whom the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) knows are in the U.S., but whom the USCIS is not taking steps to deport or remove from the country. (3) Victims of human trafficking, domestic violence or other serious crimes, including individuals who plan to file, have filed, or have been granted T non-immigrant status (T-Visa) and people with pending or granted U non-immigrant status (U-Visa).

The non-citizen must meet all of the following conditions: Aged (65 years or older), blind or disabled (The state's Disability Determination Service Division is responsible for making all blindness and disability determinations for CAPI). Resident of California (No period of residency is required to gain CAPI eligibility. However, if an individual is physically absent from California for more than 90 calendar days, then the non-citizen is considered to have stopped living in California, unless contrary evidence is provided. Resources within allowable limit. Income less than the CAPI Payment Standards. Ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to non-citizen status. A person is not eligible for CAPI if an applicant is: U.S. Citizen; Resident of public institution for at least 30 consecutive days; Fleeing felon/parole violator; not a California resident; or Undocumented Immigrant

Methods of Applying for CAPI: In Person: At any DPSS district office. However, all CAPI applications will be forwarded for processing to: At any DPSS district office. However, all CAPI applications will be forwarded for processing to: Metro North District Office #38 (DPSS CAPI Centralized District Office) 2601 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90057. By Mail, E-Mail, or Fax: The fax number is (213) 368-7959. By Telephone: (866) 613-3777 and select option 7.

**Follow up Item: Commissioner Joo** asked if the department has a communication strategy with the CAPI program.

**Follow up Item:** Commission Yam asked if the county knows or have a projection who may be eligible for the CAPI program and is there a way to project that number.

Is it possible some may not be taking advantage of the program. Is there cross information sharing. Also suggesting CAPI outreach especially in higher concentrations of immigrant populations. Commissioner Yam encouraged a creative approach with the Department Outreach to this population. Ms. Adkins-Williams stated need to go back and see how we can do a better job with our outreach concerning the CAPI population. It is an underutilized. Dr Contreras made reference to the DPSS-at-a-Glance Report which documents the demographics that are served by program.

**Follow up item:** We can go back and conduct an analysis to see if there is a disparity in outreach and if so, we target populations that are lacking according to the outcome of the analysis.

**Follow up Item:** Commissioner Chan asked if there is a caseload comparison by county to see if we are over or underrepresenting, do we have that other data?

**Follow up Item:** Chairperson Andrade-Stadler requested to know the history of CAPI.

Presentation: Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Program  
Noemi Castro, Human Services Administrator III  
CalWORKs Program Section

Ms. Castro provided the following overview of the RCA Program:

RCA is a federally funded program for the following groups of individuals to help them resettle in this country. Such as: Refugees; Asylees; Afghan; and Ukrainian Parolees; and Certified Victims of Human Trafficking. This program is for single individuals, married couples, or domestic partners with no minor children under the age of 18. As of October 1, 2021, RCA eligibility is for 12 months instead of 8 months of aid. The start of the 12-month timeframe is determined as follows: Refugees – date entered the U.S.; Asylee – date asylum granted; Parolee – date parole was granted for identified population; and Trafficking Victims – date certified by the Office of Refugee Resettlement Agency.

In addition to applying for RCA online at <https://benefitscal.com/> or the DPSS Customer Service Center at (866) 613-3777, RCA applicants may also apply at one of five DPSS district offices throughout Los Angeles County: Glendale; Metro North; El Monte; South Family and West Valley.

As of November 2023, there are 1,723 RCA approved cases which consist of 1,893 RCA participants.

**Follow up Item:** Provide the denial/discontinuances data for the RCA.

Presentation: Medi-Cal: Adult Expansion

Jose Martinez, Human Services Administrator II In-Charge  
Medi-Cal Program Section

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) implemented the Adult Expansion on January 1, 2024. This expansion provides full scope Medi-Cal benefits to California residents 26-49 years of age, regardless of immigration status, if all Medi-Cal eligibility criteria is met. With this expansion, full scope Medi-Cal is now available to all Californians, regardless of immigration status, if otherwise eligible.

Restricted scope Medi-Cal benefits were available to individuals who met the Medi-Cal eligibility criteria but whose immigration status had not been determined, who were not United States citizens/nationals, or who did not have satisfactory immigration status. It covered limited/emergency services, including pregnancy-related services. It did not cover medication or primary care.

Individuals 26-49 years of age that were enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal as of December 2023 were moved to full scope Medi-Cal effective January 1, 2024. Applying for or using Medi-Cal will not affect an Individual's immigration status. As of December 23, 2022, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) does not consider health services as part of the public charge determination.

**Follow up Items: Commissioner Yam** encourage creative approaches with notifying the community about Medi-Cal Expansion within the immigrant population. **Commissioner Lee** to provide her concerns to Ms. Toliver. **Commissioner Lewis** requested that DPSS to report back on the impact of Medi-Cal Expansion on processing at a future meeting. She also suggested that the outreach of Med-Cal Expansion should include Public Charge since there is still some fear around it.

**Follow up Items: Commissioner Taylor** feels an overlooked population is community colleges, there is a high immigration rate, they struggle with employment and resources from all demographics. **Commissioner Joo** suggested that there be a target goal in Medi-Cal Expansion and to track this data separately. **Chairperson Andrade-Stadler** suggested outreach to adult education schools, libraries, high schools providing adult educations. She also encouraged commissioners to open their agencies for planned outreach events to reach the immigrant community. **Commissioner McBride** suggested that Medi-Cal Expansion be discussed with the Prevention Committee.

Commissioner Lewis asked does DPSS have the administrative funding needed to expand to the capacity you need to do all this extra work connected to Medi-Cal Expansion. Dr. Contreras responded no we do not. When we talk about the quality of work, like how long is it acceptable for someone to wait, all of that is tied together with the amount of staffing dedicated to the program. I want to acknowledge our staff here today for their leadership and hard work. 90% processing across all of our programs is an incredible achievement, but if you are in the 10% that didn't get things process timely for whatever reason, these achievements don't matter because its an individual impact. I'd also like to highlight that we are still emerging from the pandemic. There were many things that were done and in place that we had to during the pandemic.

Currently, we are in the process of reassessing some of those things because we need our systems to work efficiently at all of our access points. We are not there yet, so that is some of the additional work that we need to do. But it is an unprecedented time with universal health care for all in California and it is very exciting.

Commissioner Lewis asked how can the commission help the department? Dr. Contreras suggested partnering around the advocacy space on specific legislation that can improve, streamline to make things simpler for our customers and our staff.

## **6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Toliver provide the outcome of the families adopted by the commission. Five families were adopted. One family per Supervisorial District. Gift cards and gifts for the children were delivered. Special thanks was noted for Commissioner Andrew Yam who assisted giving gifts to the family representing the First District.

## **7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.