



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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TINA PHAN

MEETING MINUTES via TELECONFERENCE

**Thursday, July 15, 2021
500 West Temple Street, Room 374-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

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

Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Chair)	Raúl Estrada
Veronica Lewis (Vice-Chair)	Mary Galvan Rosas
Yvonne Chan	Booker Pearson
Frank G. De Balogh	Paige Pelonis
Sue ElHessen	

Commissioners Excused:

Lori Stein	Joe Brown
Michael Bloom	Michael Flood
Egerton Forester	

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chair

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS	Dorothy Avila, DPSS
Shawn Luna, County Counsel	Roxana Molina, DPSS

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Tina Phan

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Public Comments were received timely from Lena Silver, NLSLA; Lily Choi, NLSLA and Maana Azar, Law Clerk for NLSLA and were read in to the record.

3.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2021 MEETING

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

MOTION: Commissioner Chan moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner ElHessen seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

CALL FOR VOTE: Minutes were approved by unanimous vote with no corrections or abstentions.

4.0 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Ms. Jiménez provided updates on the following topics:

I am happy to announce that the State has launch **the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) 2.0 Client Education Campaign**. **P-EBT** provides financial assistance to young children (aged 0-6) who received CalFresh benefits and school age children who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals for the 2020-21 school year. P-EBT cards for eligible **young children aged 0-6** who received CalFresh from October 2020 to January 2021 have already started to receive their cards. They will be sent through August 2021. P-EBT cards for eligible **school children (TK-12)** will begin mailing in early September 2021. P-EBT cards for eligible **young children** who received CalFresh from February to May 2021 will begin mailing in November 2021. There is no P-EBT 2.0 application. All P-EBT cards will be mailed automatically to eligible households in alphabetical order based on the first name of the eligible child. This is not a DPSS administered program. This program is administered by the State and they distribute these funds.

We have shared with you that DPSS has launched the **RE Line**. This is where individuals can call DPSS, no paperwork is needed, we capture telephonic signature, and we try to approve benefits the same day. Since March, over **6,200** customers have contacted the RE Line to renew their benefits without submitting a form, and **82%** have completed the call with an eligibility determination. In addition, EWs have reached out to approximately **56,400** customers ahead of their scheduled renewal date, and **68%** have renewed their benefits upon completing the call. To date, we have launched **23 offices**, and we have **6 more** to go by the end of August 2021.

From June 2021 through August 2021 our **Toy Loan Program** is hosting its annual **Backpack and School Supply giveaway** to benefit low-income children in the community. You can donate through **AmazonSmile** or call at (213) 744-4344 to schedule a drop off at our headquarters. Deadline to donate is **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**. Toy Loan is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

There is language in the State **Budget** to include 50-year old's and older who are undocumented to get full scope Medi-Cal. We are waiting to hear what will happen next. For our CalWORKs Families we were able to get Earned Income Disregards approved for both applicants and recipients.

5.0 PRESENTATION: CALSAWS...WHAT'S COMING

Dorothy Avila, Acting Information Technology Manager III
CalSAWS Support/Business Intelligence

Ms. Avila presented on CalSAWS changes coming to L A County in 2021:

By August 28, 2021, DPSS will be changing their Central Print and Mailing Services which will be handled by a new contractor that will mail out all correspondences to our clients as well as the renew packets. September 27, 2021, 39 C-IV counties will migrate to the CalSAWS system to manage their caseloads. Shortly thereafter, by November 22, 2021, DPSS will have a New Imaging Solution by Hyland and a new Statewide Portal called BenefitsCal. This system replaces the Your Benefits Now (YBN) portal.

The CalSAWS Portal builds on the foundation of the YBN portal. It will have the same looking field whether you are on a laptop or on your mobile phone. Providing clients with a dashboard which will show our clients benefits information and information regarding their time clock. These are enhancements that the YBN portal does not have today. In addition to applying for all benefits online, clients will be able to submit changes, submit renewal packets, request copies of their correspondence, and many helps features to assist with navigating to get questions answered that they need. This project used a user centered design session which included the public, those that are current actual users of YBN, Authorized Representatives, Providers and Assisters to get feedback about the new portal system.

The BenefitsCal landing page allows customers to select a language, create an Account or use their existing Log-in account. You can start an application for benefits, read a short description of programs available such as: Disaster Food Assistance, Food, Cash Aid, Health Coverage and Other resources. The landing page will also provide additional help to find a local office; find a fee free ATM; find someone who can help; learn how to apply for benefit; frequently asked questions and a description of what Covered California is.

There is a BenefitsCal – Awareness Toolkit which includes: designs for posters, brochures, logos, branded photos, example of social media posts, hashtags, and text/copy for counties to update the public in the counties; websites; posting in offices; in various languages. There will be text messages and emails to clients to let them know what is coming.

DPSS is going a step further by involving our Communications team to prepare and educate internal staff on the “what and when” regarding our new portal. There is a detailed dashboard of cash benefits, Medi-Cal CalFresh, EBT information and a snapshot of the program details of their benefit household. The dashboard can be accessed by computer or smart phone. This new portal will encourage customers to call-in to complete their interview right away to receive benefits faster after submitting an application.

Follow up: Provide Commissioner Pelonis with the print materials for sharing when it is available for distribution.

6.0 COMMISSION BUSINESS

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Special Recognition – Outgoing Chair, Booker Pearson, was recognized and issued a plaque for his leadership from July 2015 - June 2021.

Establish Commission By-Law Ad-Hoc Committee for By-Law Changes – Chairperson Andrade Stadler established an ad-hoc by-law committee. Committee volunteers are as follows: Adele Andrade-Stadler – Committee Chair; Veronica Lewis, Paige Pelonis. The first committee meeting to be established in September. First report back to Commission body to be added to the next meeting agenda. **Follow up:** Committee to meet and report back at next meeting.

Vote: Approve/Submit PSS Commission Annual Plan to CEO-Commission Services - Booker Pearson moved to approved and Dr. Yvonne Chan seconded the motion. Floor was opened for discussion. Vice-Chair suggested that the Commission Annual Plan be postponed for re-working. Commissioners Chan and ElHessen asked questions to get clarification regarding the current 2020-2021 Annual Plan. Commissioner Chan suggested that the Commission focus its efforts on the 2021-2022 Annual Plan. Chairperson/Commissioners agreed they would like to form an Ad-hoc committee for the next Annual Plan. Chairperson Andrade Stadler closed discussion and called for a roll call vote.

Adele Andrade-Stadler - Yes
Veronica Lewis - No
Yvonne Chan - Yes
Sue ElHessen - No

Raúl Estrada - Yes
Booker Pearson - Yes
Frank G. De Balogh - Yes
Paige Pelonis - No

The motion was approved by majority vote (5 Yes / 3 No) to send the 2020-2021 Commission Annual Plan forward to CEO-Commission Services.

Chairperson Andrade Stadler asked if any Commissioners had updates or questions before closing. Commissioner Veronica Lewis requested an agenda topic on meeting structure & the do's and don'ts of public comment at our next meeting. She would like for the meeting time to extend longer than 1 hour. Chairperson Andrade Stadler established an annual plan ad hoc committee to work on future goals. Committee volunteers are Adele Andrade Stadler, Dr. Sue ElHessen, Paige Pelonis and Dr. Yvonne Chan. Commissioner Estrada shared he was invited to a press conference with the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi promoting Child Tax Credits. Commissioner Chan shared she has been appointed to the LACOE Board of Education. She will remain on the PSS Commission and will recuse herself on subject matters that are a conflict of interest. **Follow up:** Annual Plan Committee to meet and report back at the next meeting.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion and a second to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.