



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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Executive Director
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Commission Secretary
TINA PHAN

MEETING MINUTES via TELECONFERENCE

**Thursday, November 18, 2021
500 West Temple Street
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)	Michael Flood
Veronica Lewis (Vice-Chair)	Mihran Kalaydjian
Yvonne Chan	Summer McBride
Frank G. De Balogh	Booker Pearson
Sue ElHessen	Dynasty Taylor
Mary Galvan Rosas	

Commissioners Absent:

Paige Pelonis (E)	Raúl Estrada (E)
Joe Brown (E)	Lori Stein (E)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was established.

2.0 INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Dynasty Taylor – 2nd District
Summer McBride – 2nd District
Mihran Kalaydjian – 5th District

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS	Breanna Hawkins, CEO ARDI
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel	Sherise English, DPSS
Sherri Cheatham, DPSS	

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Tina Phan

2.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2021 MEETING

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

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

CALL FOR VOTE: Minutes were not approved by majority vote. There were four Ayes and five Abstentions. October Minutes were tabled until next meeting.

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Chair) - Aye	Michael Flood - Abstained
Veronica Lewis (Vice-Chair) - Aye	Summer McBride - Abstained
Yvonne Chan - Aye	Booker Pearson - Abstained
Frank G. De Balogh*	Mary Galvan Rosas - Abstained
Sue ElHessen - Aye	Dynasty Taylor - Abstained

*Was not available to vote due to technical difficulties with phone.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

There were no written nor verbal comments from the public.

4.0 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Ms. Jiménez provided updates on the following topics:

BENEFITSCAL - At the last meeting, we gave a presentation on CalSAWS and what would be coming soon. At that time, the new Statewide portal, BenefitsCal, was scheduled to be implemented on November 22, 2021. However, CalSAWS has asked Los Angeles County to delay its migration into BenefitsCal to allow sufficient time for performance testing to ensure that the imaging solution can handle LA's increased volume. The imaging solution is critical to BenefitsCal as it allows customers to be able to upload documents. As soon as we have identified the new target implementation date, we will share that with you.

GENERAL RELIEF (GR) GUARANTEED INCOME (GI) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT-

The GR GI Demonstration Project was launched on October 1, 2021. This is where 150 TAY youth will receive a total of \$1,250 in GI, not including their GR. We currently have 33 TAYs participating. We have connected with the TAYs and some have shared they are using their funds to purchase food and clothing; purchase hygiene products; purchase school supplies; pay for rent and housing; moving expenses/furniture; save to purchase a car; and save for a future business.

CALFRESH UPDATE - Emergency Allotments (EA); The October EA was issued on November 14, 2021. The month of November has been approved by USDA-FNS and will be issued on December 5, 2021. To date, DPSS has issued over \$10.7 million CalFresh EA benefits in LA County, totaling over \$1.75 billion in California.

USING ARPA FUNDS - We received \$500,000 and our focus is CalFresh Outreach. We have met with community-based organizations and they identified three areas to focus on, specifically: Seniors, Asian/Pacific Islanders and the LGBTQ+ communities to get the information out. I also instructed our team to include an additional \$500,000 from our NCC funds for a total of \$1 million for the community-based organizations that service these targeted populations.

5.0 PRESENTATION: ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE – ADVANCING EQUITY IN LOS ANGELES

Breanna Hawkins, MPL, Senior Analyst
Chief Executive Office

Ms. Hawkins provided the following information:

We recognize and acknowledge the First People of this ancestral and unceded territory - the land that today we call Los Angeles County. With respect to their elders, past and present, we recognize the Tongva, Tataviam and Chumash, as the original stewards of this land and who continue to lift up their stories of culture.

Contextualizing the Work of ARDI

Racial disparities have been recognized in Los Angeles County across the board in a variety of areas from food insecurity, health disparities, incarceration rates, rates of homelessness, incarceration rates, graduation rates, rates of poverty and accumulated wealth. Many of the inequities have been created, perpetuating unfairly upheld policies, practices, and procedures within and across our institutions and systems. Across lines of race African American, Latin Americans and Asian Americans experience disproportionate rates of inequities. COVID-19 has exacerbated these inequities.

Research shows that where we live might be a stronger predictor for health in areas of concentrated disadvantage. Stable poverty and social isolation lead to declining socio-economic structures and limit individual options, opportunity and choice, Individuals with access to more resources tend to stabilize the institutions in a community and maintain social support and social stability; normative transmission of positive health behaviors; and collective efficacy.

Role of Government

The role government has a critical role to play in recognizing its role in systemic racism by committing to changes in systems, organizational structures, policies, and practices

that lead to solutions using a racial equity lens in future decision-making that can inform and shape solutions going forward that elevate our disproportionate communities and lead to beneficial outcomes that benefit everyone. Possible interventions can aim to desegregate neighborhoods; improve school quality; lower poverty rates; increase economic mobility; promote alternatives to incarceration; advance health and food access in historically impacted areas.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Action on Racism

On July 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a sweeping initiative that boldly articulates an anti-racist agenda that will guide, govern and increase the County's ongoing commitment to fighting racism in all its dimensions, especially racism that systemically and systematically affects Black residents. This motion declares that racism is a matter of public health in Los Angeles County. They established an eighth board-directed priority to address the elimination of racism and bias in the County; requiring the development of a strategic plan; and establish an organizational unit within the CEO.

Equality and Equity

Equality refers to the idea that each individual or group of people is treated the same, given the same resources or expected to take advantage of the same opportunities. Equity, on the other hand, acknowledges that each person has different circumstances, backgrounds and starts from a different place. As a result, equity refers to the idea that differences matter and that systems must be balanced to distribute resources and opportunities needed to reach equal outcomes by treating everyone justly according to their circumstances.

Defining Racial Equality and Anti-Racism

Racial equality refers to what a genuinely non-racist society would look like. In a radically equitable society, the distribution of society's benefits and burdens would not be skewed by race. Anti-Racism is the active process of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.

Functions of the CEO-ARDI Unit

Under the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Unit is responsible for: training and capacity building; technical assistance and planning; policy analysis and development; data collection, analysis, and reporting; community and stakeholder engagement; equity infused programming and resourcing.

Vision for Racial Equity in Los Angeles County

This vision is for across the County departments, organizations, and jurisdictions within LA County to align all contributions towards the advancement of racial equity in Los Angeles County supporting positive life trajectories and prevent negative life outcomes in which a person is no more or less likely to experience society's benefits or burdens just because of the color of their skin.

Ms. Hawkins shared additional information on the status and timeline of the ARDI Unit's strategic priorities countywide. The Chair and Commission Body thanked Ms. Hawkins for her most informative presentation.

6.0 CONTINUED BUSINESS

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Ms. Toliver provided an update to the commission regarding Adopt-a-Family donations. She encouraged all to continue to give as soon as possible to support 5 CalWORKs families.

7.0 COMMISSION BUSINESS

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

None.

8.0 COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE TOPICS

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

The Chair asked for ad-hoc committees provide a status at next meeting. Commissioner Kalaydjian requested to learn more about youth programs connected to DPSS. Commissioner Mary Galvan Rosas shared a link regarding cultural bias in the virtual comments for sharing at <https://www.starbucksglobalacademy.com/to-be-welcoming/>.

9.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

Next meeting is in January 2022.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The quorum was lost. Chairperson Andrade-Stadler ended the meeting at 11:45 a.m.