



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH, CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91746
(562) 908-8669
<https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/about/pss.html>



COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson
ADELE ANDRADE-STADLER

Vice Chairperson
VERONICA LEWIS

JOE BROWN
YVONNE CHAN, Ed.D.
FRANK G. DE BALOGH, Ph.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, October 21, 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)	Raúl Estrada
Veronica Lewis (Vice-Chair)	Lori Stein
Yvonne Chan	Joe Brown
Frank G. De Balogh	Sue ElHessen

Commissioners Absent:

Paige Pelonis (U)	Mary Galvan Rosas (E)
Booker Pearson (E)	Michael Flood (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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS	Nurhan Pirim, DPSS
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel	

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Tina Phan

2.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2021 MEETING

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

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

CALL FOR VOTE: Minutes were approved by majority vote with one abstention and no corrections as follows:

Adele Andrade-Stadler - Aye	Raúl Estrada - Aye
Veronica Lewis - Aye	Lori Stein - Abstained
Yvonne Chan - Aye	Joe Brown - Aye
Frank G. De Balogh - Aye	Sue ElHessen - Aye

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:

The **Board of Supervisors issued a mandate** that all County employees, including Commissioners, be vaccinated by October 1, 2021. Everyone is required to register on the Fulgent site. They must indicate whether they are vaccinated or not and/or whether they plan to request a medical and/or religious exemption. On October 1st, **we re-opened our district lobbies** to the public. To ensure the health and safety of all DPSS employees and customers, all offices will continue to adhere to safety protocols, such as: Face coverings must be worn by all employees and customers while inside our offices, regardless of vaccination status. Physical distancing will be enforced. All employees and customers will be asked to self-screen and their temperature will be checked prior to entering our offices. All offices are conducting frequent cleaning and hand sanitizers have been placed throughout the offices.

DPSS is helping to spread awareness about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) expansion of the **2021 Advance Child Tax Credit**. We have partnered with iHeart Media, affiliated with the Dodgers, to amplify messaging through: 30 second PSA's and social media posts, which includes airing PSA's during Dodger home games, iHeart radio stations, iHeart media streaming app, which reaches over 5M listeners; Promotions on the Dodgers website/newsletters/emails to subscribers; and Social media posts on iHeart media platforms. For more information on the 2021 Child Tax Credit, you can visit www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021.

DPSS launched the **General Relief Guaranteed Income Demonstration Project**, where 150 TAY youth will receive a total of 1,240 (this amount included \$240 to pay for CalFresh benefits). I am happy to announce that the Project launched on October 1, 2021, and 23 TAYs received their first payment. This program will give young people, including youth transitioning out of foster care, the opportunity to invest in their education or participate in job training programs that could lead to higher paying jobs.

DPSS held two **Backpack Giveaways**. Supervisor Solis participated in the event held in August and Supervisor Barger participated in the event held in September. Overall, we distributed backpacks and school supplies to over 650 CalWORKs children ages 5 through 17.

I am pleased to share with you that DPSS received recognition by the **Quality and Productivity Commission at the Annual PQA Ceremony** on October 13, 2021. DPSS won in 4 award categories for 11 project entries. The winning categories/projects are: Commission Special Award – Customer Service Award-Outbound Text Campaign for Food Giveaway (A DPSS collaborative effort with the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.) Special Merit Plaque-The Community Ambassador Network (DMH's entry with DPSS' collaboration).

Lastly, I wanted to share our **pre and post pandemic impact to our caseloads**. Our CalFresh caseload increased by 14% - from 1.1 million to 1.3 million individuals; Medi-Cal caseload increased by 16% - 2.9 million to 3.4 million individuals; CalWORKs families decreased by 8% - from 264,000 families to 243,000 families.

Follow up Action(s): (1) Provide Commissioners with the contact person for the Tayportunity Program. (2) Commissioner Lewis recommended targeted outreach to CBOs (E6 Providers, LAHSA) service populations that do not have access to online technology or phones.

5.0 **PRESENTATION: CALWORKS CHILD CARE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Nuran Pirim, Human Services Administrator III
CalWORKs Child Care Section

Mr. Pirim provided the following updates on CalWORKs Child Care program:

The CalWORKs Child Care Program helps families to access immediate, quality, and affordable child care as they move through DPSS' Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Program towards unsubsidized employment and achievement of economic mobility. It promotes parental choice and ensures that families have stable child care that benefits both parents and children. The CalWORKs Child Care Program is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

ELIGIBILITY FOR CalWORKs CHILD CARE • Families: CalWORKs families are initially eligible to subsidized child care if their income does not exceed 85% of the State Median Income (SMI), adjusted for their family size. Families may remain income-eligible for ongoing subsidized child care until their income exceeds 85% of the SMI. • Parents: CalWORKs participants may be eligible to subsidized child care upon approval of their CalWORKs cash assistance and may remain eligible after cash assistance is discontinued. • Children: Under State law, subsidized child care is available for CalWORKs children through age 12, and to exceptional needs and severely disabled children ages 13 to 21.

The CalWORKs Child Care Program is administered and funded by CDSS in three Stages, as follows: • Stage 1: Locally administered by DPSS through contracts with ten (10) Resource and Referral/Alternative Payment Program (R&R/APP) agencies.

Stage 1 begins with a parent's approval of CalWORKs cash assistance and request for child care services. A family may be served in Stage 1 while receiving cash assistance and for up to 24 months after cash assistance is discontinued. Families may also remain in Stage 1 if there is not sufficient funding in Stages 2 and 3.

Stage 2: Locally administered by the R&R/APP agencies. Stage 2 begins when a family is discontinued from CalWORKs cash assistance, and the family is able to be seamlessly transitioned into Stage 2. Families may remain in Stage 2 for up to 24 months after their CalWORKs cash assistance is discontinued. • Stage 3: Locally administered by the R&R/APP agencies. Stage 3 provides child care benefits for: 1) former CalWORKs participants who are working, no longer receiving cash assistance, and who have exhausted their 24-month eligibility for Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 Child Care; and 2) families who receive a CalWORKs diversion payment.

LOCAL R&R/APP AGENCIES The R&R agencies provide information to parents to help them make an informed choice in the selection of a licensed or license-exempt child care provider, and the APP agencies determine child care eligibility and issue provider reimbursements. For parents who request assistance in locating and securing a licensed provider, the R&R agencies offer enhanced referrals, which are referrals to at least four licensed providers which meet the needs of the family, and that have confirmed available spaces ready to accept children for enrollment. A license-exempt provider may be a friend, family member, or neighbor. R&R/APP agencies co-locate staff in DPSS GAIN Regional Offices, provide weekly visits to CalWORKs District Offices, and work closely with homeless Coordinated Entry System for Families (CESF) agencies to provide comprehensive child care information and expedited services to current and former CalWORKs families. The R&R/APP agencies ensure families are seamlessly transitioned between the various Stages of CalWORKs Child Care as these families stabilize, move off public assistance, and progress towards achievement of economic mobility.

SENATE BILL (SB) 80 • SB 80 became effective October 1, 2019 and provides CalWORKs participants with no less than 12 months of continuous S1CC upon approval of CalWORKs cash assistance. • S1CC eligibility is no longer constrained to only be available for a parent's specific employment hours or hours of participation in Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activities; full-time S1CC is available unless parents specifically choose part-time care.

STAGE 1 CHILD CARE UTILIZATION In June 2021, there were 8,645 families that were authorized to receive S1CC in Los Angeles County. By comparison, there were 5,433 families in the County that were authorized to receive S1CC in September 2019 (pre-SB 80), which represents an increase of nearly 60%.

6.0 CONTINUED BUSINESS

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Chairperson

Chairperson Andrade-Stadler shared with Commission members she added continued business agenda items that need to be revisited for further updates to the commission body.

7.0 **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

By-Law Ad-Hoc Committee Update - Chairperson Andrade-Stadler shared we are very fortunate to have Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza, Executive Director of Racial Equality as our special guest presenter at our November meeting. Special thanks to Veronica Lewis for making the connection for us. This presentation will help us with putting EDI language in our by-laws.

Holiday Gala/Adopt-a-Family - Ms. Toliver shared Luminarias Restaurant is closed and conditions under which we can have the luncheon provides for our being on their terrace with no heaters, no buffet, however, Ms. Toliver shared perhaps the Commission members could forgo the Holiday Gala and focus all efforts on helping families this holiday season through the DPSS Adopt-a-family program.

Follow up Action: Chairperson Andrade-Stadler suggested one family per supervisorial district. Commission staff will locate the families through DPSS Adopt a Family and Commissioners will donate towards their family. Commissioners concurred. Commission staff will collect donations and contact commissioners concerning the details. In addition, Commissioner Estrada will provide additional help through his organization to the First District family that is selected. He also recommended photos of the families being helped.

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

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

Follow up Action: Vice-Chairperson Lewis asked if the Department had received funding from the American Recovery Plan Act, if so, she asked how it's being used? Ms. Jiménez stated the Department received 500K and we are currently evaluating the potential use of the funds. We can report back when it is determined.

9.0 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Adele Andrade Stadler, Chairperson

Commission Meeting Structure – Chairperson Andrade-Stadler asked commissioners if they had any questions about the meeting structure during commission meeting.

Follow up Action: Commissioner Lewis requested for the meeting to be extend from 60 to 90 minutes. Chair noted the request.

Follow up Action: Send Commissioner ElHessen's video link regarding National Disability Month to all Commissioners. She is asking for all who view to like the video.

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Andrade-Stadler adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.