



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH, CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91746
(562) 908-8669
<http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss/main/about-us/pss-commission/>



COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson
BOOKER PEARSON

Vice Chairperson
ADELE ANDRADE-STADLER

MICHAEL BLOOM
JOE BROWN
YVONNE CHAN, Ed.D.
FRANK G. DE BALOGH, Ph.D.
SUE ELHESSEN, Ed.D.
RAUL ESTRADA
MICHAEL FLOOD
EGERTON FORSTER
MARY GALVAN ROSAS
VERONICA LEWIS
LORI C. STEIN

COMMISSION STAFF

Executive Director
LA FRANCE TOLIVER

Commission Secretary
TINA PHAN

MINUTES

**Thursday, January 16, 2020
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374-A
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:

Booker Pearson (Chair)
Yvonne Chan
Frank G. De Balogh
Raúl Estrada
Sue ElHessen

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Vice-Chair)
Michael Flood
Veronica Lewis
Mary Galvan Rosas
Lori Stein

Commissioners Excused:

Egerton Forster
Joe Brown

Michael Bloom

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Booker Pearson, Chair

Meeting was called to order. A quorum was established at 10:40 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Parjack Ghaderi, DPSS
Shawn Luna, County Counsel
Kelvin Driscoll, DPSS
Miguel Barrios, DPSS

Nathan Auzenne, LACOE
Lily Choi, NLSLA
LayLaa Abdul, NLSLA
Nicholas Lopez, DPSS

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Tina Phan

1.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING

Booker Pearson, Chair

MOTION: Commissioner Chan moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Stein seconded the motion.

ACTION: The November 21, 2019, PSS Commission Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2.0 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Parjack Ghaderi, Acting Chief Deputy Director

Ms. Ghaderi provided Departmental updates on the following topics:

The Governors Proposed Budget FY 2019-20; Department of Early Childhood Development; CalWORKs Grant Increase; Medi-Cal Healthier California for all Initiative; Medi-Cal Expansion for Older Adults; Food Bank Funding; In-Home Supportive Services-Minimum Wage Increase; Electronic Visit Update; SSI Cash Out / CalFresh Expansion; and the New DPSS Executive Appointment / Structure.

Follow up Actions: (1) Chair Pearson suggested that CDSS Child Care Standards be added as an agenda item. (2) Commissioner De Balogh asked what the results are of the "State of the Department's Self-Assessment". Will the Commission see the results?

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Summit
General Relief & CAPI Section
Kelvin Driscoll, HSA III

Mr. Driscoll presented information on the following:

December 6, 2019, the Department of Public Social Services, in partnership with Compton College, held the first ever General Relief (GR) Transition Age Youth (TAY) Summit. The goal of the Summit was to connect attendees to opportunities, resources, and organizations aligned to three distinct economic mobility pathways: education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Over the two-day event, youth engaged in career and training workshops, met with employers, engaged with mental health professionals, built support and community, and a number attended the pre-Summit activity at the Palmdale wolf sanctuary with our Summit partner, The Wolf Connection.

The following provides a brief description of our core Summit partners:

Wolf Connection is a unique educational sanctuary and wilderness retreat center that

brings people together through direct relationships with rescued wolves for the purpose of empowering humans to become authentic leaders and stewards of the earth. Wolf Connection offered a visit to the sanctuary for our Summit attendees and provided the keynote speech during the Summit. A total of 7 TAY attended the pre-Summit visit at Wolf Connection.

Squarage is a post-modern career readiness and workforce development enrichment program that focuses on interview skills, job retention and job search preparation. Squarage conducted workshops throughout the day of the Summit and provided attendees with insight on their resumes.

Creative Incite is a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of art therapy, while providing formal training and resources to help participants monetize their artwork through entrepreneurship. Creative Incite conducted workshops throughout the day to recruit for their cohorts beginning in January and April respectively. A total of 24 TAY have registered for this training program.

LA EMT Program is a partnership between the LA County Fire Department (LAFD) and DPSS that offers Emergency Medical Training (EMT) and intensive case management exclusively to GROW participants. LAFD conducted workshops throughout the day to recruit for their cohorts. A total of 5 TAY have registered for this training program.

Compton College offered our attendees three separate training programs through their community college, that lead to in-demand career pathways. Additionally, Compton served as the host for the GR TAY Summit. A total of 11 TAY have enrolled to participate in these training programs.

Participating County Departments included: Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services; Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs; Los Angeles County Fire Department; Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services; and Law Offices of Los Angeles County Public Defender.

Participating industries for the event employment component included: Government; Healthcare; Manufacturing; Retail/Hospitality and Utilities. Over 80% of Summit attendees committed to an economic mobility pathway in either pursuing their education, enrolling in a training or employment program, and/or pursuing their own business.

All Summit attendees completed event surveys and the feedback overwhelmingly reflected that the youth found the event to be excellent. A few direct quotes from the surveys are as follows: "More events like this!" "Keep (events like this) the same. I wouldn't change anything, Great staff", "It was fun to learn different things!", "Squarage needs to come back again!"; and "(I need to) stop doubting myself and take more risks!" Following the Summit, the work of the DPSS staff continues. We will follow up with our Summit partners to share best practices for our continued efforts.

We have reached out to 19 additional participants who are considered TAY and have connected them to begin training programs and will continue additional recruitments

within our district offices. We will track the progress of our attendees in their respective economic mobility pathways and work to remove any barriers they continue to face.

Supporting Summit participants on the pathways they have selected is top priority. The goal of the event was not just to engage and motivate youth, but to provide the necessary support to ensure they reach the end of their selected pathway, which can include the completion of an education/training program, employment, or for entrepreneurial-minded participants, self-employment.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Booker Pearson, Chair

Nathan Auzeene spoke about LACOE's Career Path programs and how they are developing more, and he would like to widen the access to the trainings to anyone in need in GROW or other programs.

5.0 COMMISSION BUSINESS

PSS Commission Holiday Gala &
Adopt-a-Family Recap
La France Toliver, Executive Director

Ms. Toliver thanked all commissioners for their participation in the Holiday Gala and their support for our adopt a family participants. The Commission raised \$461. \$300 went to the CalWORKs Homeless Family and \$150 went toward a disabled IHSS participant. Remaining funds went towards gift boxes and wrapping paper etc. Special thanks went to Commissioner Stein for purchasing special individual gifts for each family member. Special thanks went towards our Chair Booker Pearson for picking up the financial slack in costs the Holiday Gala. Certificates were issued to DPSS Audio Technicians Matt Oquendo and Leon Nyarecha.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.