

Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships

Housed within the Office of Child Protection

Spring 2017, Volume 2

OUR MISSION

The Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships develops collaborative relationships and joint initiatives between the County and the Private Sector to help us better achieve our shared vision of improving the lives of Los Angeles County's children and families.

UNDOCUMENTED HOMELESS YOUTH LEGAL CONNECTIONS

Based on the 2016 youth count, there are 3,540 youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, many of whom are former foster youth. An unknown number of these youth are undocumented immigrants, who are living in fear of detention and deportation.

These youth were turning to housing providers with their immigration questions. These providers were turning to Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA), who turned to the Center. We stepped in to help, connecting private-sector resources to the County's system of youth housing providers.

We secured a commitment from Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) to train these providers and their youth on their legal rights and to represent, or help to find representation for, youth in need of it. We also secured the commitment of two private firms, Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP and O'Melveny & Meyers, LLP, to offer pro-bono legal aid to these youth.

On May 24, the Center co-convened these providers in a half-day training. Both DCFS and KIND briefed them on basic immigration law, "know your rights" guidance to share with youth, and potential avenues of relief. Most important, DCFS and KIND, in conjunction with the pro bono attorneys, gave these providers and youth in fear deportation access to immigration legal services and attorneys to help them should they need it.

FOSTERING HOME EVENT TO RECRUIT RESOURCE FAMILIES:

Los Angeles County has experienced a precipitous decline in the number of foster families. We have half as many today as we did ten years ago. At the same time, state law is requiring an increased reliance on home-based, as opposed to group home, care for children in the system. The Center set out to help address this crisis through co-hosting a One-Day, One-Stop Shop Event, "Fostering Home" to streamline the process for becoming a fostering home.

OUR SHARED AGENDA

- Preventing children and families from entering the child welfare system in the first place
- Strengthening efforts to place children with relative caregivers and recruit and retain non-related resource families
- Providing the foundation for our Transition-Age Youth to build their strength and resilience.



We secured \$30,000 in philanthropic funding from the Parsons Foundation and the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative and partnered with DCFS, which matched the philanthropic contribution, to put on this event. It focused on the faith community and took place at the Center of Hope Church on June 3 in South Central Los Angeles where the need is greatest. Hundreds of families attended and began the process of becoming resource parents. The day was full of hope and possibility as the community came together to support one another and kids in need. We believe that this event will become a model for one-day/one-stop-shop convenings across the county.

CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

ESTABLISHED

April 2016

21

joint initiatives

\$500,000+

in private sector investments

22

public
and private funders

PREVENTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM ENTERING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM:

One of the Center's most transformational initiatives is helping build a countywide network to prevent children and families from entering the child welfare system in the first place. Study after study shows that preventing children from entering the child welfare system is good for these kids, who don't have to undergo the trauma of system-involvement, and good for the system, which ultimately saves money and is better able to do its job with the kids who do need to enter the system. And it is not rocket science. As one expert, said, "what these families really need is [earlier] intervention . . . when they are beginning to struggle but are still relatively stable, when intervention wouldn't involve breaking up families." (Tierney McGrath)

Here in LA County, the stars are aligned to do just that: we have a Board of Supervisors focused like a laser on this issue; county departments with innovative leaders eager to partner on this work; a strong foundation of community-based, child- and family- focused network already supporting families; and, importantly, a Plan to do it. The OCP, after a year and a half of intense work with community and county stakeholders, is set to release its Countywide Prevention Plan in late June.

This Plan provides the roadmap for building up the family-strengthening interventions that can stabilize struggling families. It sets out clear priorities and concrete next steps. It lifts up home visiting and early childhood education as key prevention strategies. It calls on all of us to become the County that we all want to be, one where, as the OCP's Plan states, "every child is healthy, growing and thriving in a strong family, and supported by a safe and nurturing community."

The Center and the Private Sector will be key to the successful implementation of this Plan. The County cannot achieve this vision on its own. It needs the outside-the-box thinking, the leveraging opportunities, the public will boost that comes from partnership. The Private Sector is the secret sauce that makes this big Plan possible.

We are taking an all hands-on-deck mentality to this work and engaging partners across the spectrum. We have brought together an ad hoc funders group to help advise on the home visiting component. We are working collaboratively with the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Education and First5LA. We have met with, and will develop partnerships with, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation. We have even begun to have conversations with the regional staff at the Administration on Children and Families at the Federal Health and Human Services Department about local-federal collaborations.

We are excited about this work and its potential to benefit tens of thousands of families. The Plan will be released in late June and the opportunities for joint initiatives are in early formation. The Center will be helping to build these joint initiatives and seeks partners in this effort. Please join us.

CENTER'S PHILANTHROPIC FUNDERS

The Ahmanson Foundation; Annenberg Foundation; The Ballmer Group; Blue Shield of California Foundation; California Community Foundation; The California Endowment; Community Partners; David Bohnett Foundation; First5LA Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; The James Irvine Foundation; Liberty Hill Foundation; Pritzker Foster Care Initiative; The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation; Weingart Foundation

CENTER'S COUNTY FUNDERS

Department of Children and Family Service;
Department of Health Services; Department of Mental Health;
Department of Public Health; Department of Public Social Services;
Sheriff's Department; Probation Department

For further information about the Center or any of the Initiatives described here please contact:

Kate Anderson
(310) 428-6571
kkanderson@ocp.lacounty.gov

Elizabeth Cohen
(202) 641-0348
ecohen@ocp.lacounty.gov

