

Los Angeles County Coalition in Support of an Office of Healthcare Enhancement

Who Are We?

The Los Angeles County Coalition in Support of an Office of Healthcare Enhancement includes organizations representing persons with mental illness and substance use problems, family members, and providers serving those persons and their families, as well as advocacy organizations and other human service related organizations, all with a commitment to ensuring the highest quality healthcare possible for the residents of Los Angeles County.

The Coalition Steering Committee includes representatives from the Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC), the Project Return Peer Support Network (PRPSN), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA), the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE), the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC), Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS), the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), and the Latino Mental Health Council (LATCO).

What Are We Proposing?

The Coalition is supporting an alternative model to a new health agency model being considered by the County CEO's office. This model, which we believe will best serve the needs of our clients, mirrors the model of the Office of Child Protection (OCP) that the County has established as a result of a recommendation by the Board of Supervisors' Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRC).

The BRC Transition Team, co-chaired by Department of Health Services' Director Dr. Mitchell Katz, was directed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to work with the Board to provide input into the job description for the Director of OCP, as well as the desired qualities and experience for the position. In describing the OCP, the "Summary Position Description" for the Director of Child Protection notes that the Supervisors "adopted the basic principle...that a single entity be established to develop, coordinate, update and continually advise the Board on implementation of a Strategic Plan covering the total complex of child safety programs."

The Summary Description Position also makes the following important points: 1) the Director of the OCP would be supported by a small but very talented staff; 2) the operating agencies working with the new Director of OCP (e.g., DCFS, Probation, DMH, DHS, and DPH) would "continue to bear their operational responsibilities and budgetary authority while the new Director [of OCP] works with their Directors in a joint, ongoing Strategic Plan development and execution monitoring forum..."; and 3) "authority over day-to-day operations and budgetary authority [would] remain in the hands of very able heads of specialized Departments," which would "require the capacity to lead collaboratively, mainly through facilitation..."

We believe that, consistent with the OCP model, an Office of Healthcare Enhancement should act to develop, coordinate, update and continually advise the Board on the implementation of a Strategic Plan to enhance the healthcare of County residents in the areas