



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

FY 2010 - 2011 WORK PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

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The mission of the Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS) is to consult with and advise the Director of the Department of Public Social Services and the Board of Supervisors on all matters relating to provision of public social services; to encourage studies conducted by others and make recommendations on Department management and operation toward promoting efficient and cost-effective delivery of social services; to conduct public hearings as necessary to determine public attitudes and needs; to cooperate with community organizations and stakeholders, advising the Director and the Board of findings and recommendations based upon public input; and to review proposed federal, state, and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Director and the Board.

MAJOR WORK PLAN GOALS – FY 2010 - 2011

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GOAL #1. INCREASE CPSS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

STRATEGY 1: COMMISSIONERS SELECT INDIVIDUAL DPSS PROGRAM SPECIALIZATIONS

Increase Commissioners' understanding of their role with CPSS and obtain commitments for action.

Objective 1: Each Commissioner will identify his/her interest, commitment and available time, and will report to the CPSS Chair and Vice Chair. DPSS functions to be considered will include but are not limited to CalWORKs/GAIN, General Relief, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services, SSI, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and any other matter pertaining to delivery of DPSS services.

Objective 2: Obtain Commissioners' commitments for action.

STRATEGY 2: ESTABLISH COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES

Objective 1: Establish permanent standing subcommittees that may be necessary to implement CPSS program goals and suggest leaders and membership for each. (Individuals who are not Commissioners may be appointed to CPSS subcommittees.)

Objective 2: In addition to the existing or future committees, establish ad hoc committees as necessary to implement CPSS program goals.

STRATEGY 3: MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AT-RISK-YOUTH

Issue Leader: Commissioner Joe Brown

Follow-through on any Committee activities that remain current.

Objective 1: Convene a meeting in 2010 to assess the need to continue this committee or cease its function.

Objective 2: Review and provide input to the Countywide anti-gang plan prepared by the CEO.

GOAL #1. INCREASE CPSS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Objective 3: Present findings to Commission, as appropriate.

Objective 4: Submit a report of policy recommendations to Board of Supervisors, as appropriate.

STRATEGY 4: IMPROVE COMMISSION HUMAN RESOURCES

Maximize existing resources and seek additional means to carry out the Commission mission.

Objective 1: Evaluate the feasibility of developing a formal volunteer cadre to assist in carrying out the Commission's purpose, and decide whether to launch new volunteer activities.

Objective 2: Fully integrate any volunteers into staff functions as appropriate.

STRATEGY 5: RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO ASSIST THE COMMISSION OR RENDER OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN DPSS TO PARTICIPANTS

Issue Leader: Commissioner Helen Najar

Objective 1: Annual awards presentations coordinated by the Awards Committee.

Objective 2: Presentation of awards throughout the year, as warranted, coordinated by the Awards Committee.

STRATEGY 6: CONDUCT REVIEWS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON DPSS' SPECIFIC MISSION, PROGRAMS, AND OPERATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Objective 1: Evaluate (1) DPSS' service mission related to providing access by eligible populations to all benefits under existing law (Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, In Home Support Services, etc.) and (2) the Department's budget for fraud detection and for outreach to those eligible but un-served. Determine if this is the appropriate balance in fraud detection, and outreach.

GOAL #1. INCREASE CPSS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- Objective 2: Evaluate what progress is being made to more effectively integrate the delivery of services to multi-problem families.
- Objective 3: Explore how the Department's mission, to move families from welfare to work, can succeed in the face of the existing housing insecurity.
- Objective 4: Consider DPSS' role related to the increasing proportion of "child only" cases.
- Objective 5: Evaluate what can/should be done regarding the large number of 18 and 19 year olds who age-out of CalWORKs each year.
- Objective 6: Enlist the support of DPSS to provide an overview of recently completed and pending policy-oriented research, to understand and to comment upon the issues now under review and of concern to the Department.
- Objective 7: Review the proposed Health and Human Services integrated service delivery model under development by the CEO.
- Objective 8: Conduct a comparative research analysis, under the direction of the Chairman, into the programs and administration of social services by Los Angeles County and the Republic of Hungary, a member of the European Union.

STRATEGY #7 REVIEW AND UPDATE COMMISSION BY-LAWS

Issue Leader: Chairman Frank de Balogh

- Objective 1: Update and bring into conformity with current County policies regarding commissions.
- Objective 2: Revise procedure for election of officers.
- Objective 3: Incorporate current policy on stipends

GOAL #2. INCREASE CPSS COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES

STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Reach out to individual Supervisors and their Deputies

Objective 1: The Standing Committee to Facilitate Communication with the Board of Supervisors to issue regular briefings for Supervisors and Deputies, such as by a regular email summary of highlights after each Commission meeting and by special invitations to committee meetings on selected issues.

Objective 2: Convene a meeting in 2010 to assess the need to continue this committee or cease its function.

STRATEGY 2: BE A CATALYST FOR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Continue to promote non-adversarial dialogue between community welfare advocates and DPSS and this Commission.

STRATEGY 3: IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH DPSS

Improve Commission procedures and timeliness relative to communications with the Director, DPSS management and DPSS service offices.

Objective 1: Enlist the Director's support for asking all DPSS regional office directors to orient and inform their staff about the CPSS and its purposes.

Objective 2: Evaluate DPSS responsiveness in following-up on issues raised at Commission meetings.

GOAL #3. EXPAND EXTERNAL NETWORKING AND LIAISON

STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE CPSS NETWORKING WITH OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Objective 1: Improve networking between CPSS and Commissions of related County Departments.

Objective 2: Identify organizations that regularly send representatives to Commission meetings and/or are members of CORE and/or participate in Joint Dialogue, and consider whether any significant constituencies are missing. If so, recommend methods for engaging representatives of these constituencies.

Objective 3: Encourage participation of Commissioners as liaisons to address various relevant concerns. Liaison opportunities to consider may include:

- Liaison to Department of Veterans Affairs
- Liaisons to DPSS Programs & Committees
- Liaisons to County Commissions, Committees and Task Forces
- Liaisons to Congress and State Government
 - Offices of Congresspersons
 - Office of the Governor
- Liaisons to Statewide Organizations
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)
- UCLA School of Social Policy

GOAL #4. EVALUATE THE CALWORKS PROGRAM

STRATEGY 1: CONTINUE THE CPSS COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF CALWORKS (CORE)

Issue Leader: Commissioner James Adler
Improve Commission involvement with CORE.

Objective 1: Annually confirm CORE's leadership and membership.

Objective 2: Continue to follow-through on implementing procedures for funneling CORE recommendations and reports to the Commission for further consideration.

Objective 3: Proactively identify research pertinent to CORE's mission, schedule reports on the research as it becomes available, and influence future research by evaluating planned research designs and providing input on research questions.

Objective 4: Based upon inquiries and discussions during CORE meetings, provide recommendations to the Commission that dovetail with topics found in other Commission objectives within this work plan.

STRATEGY 2: MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF CORE'S INQUIRY

Follow-through on CORE activities that remain current.

Objective 1: Monitor DPSS follow-up reporting to the Board of Supervisors about findings from the examination of how DPSS fulfills its responsibility to help CalWORKs/GAIN participants overcome barriers to employment such as education and training deficits, mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse. The method employed for this examination may include: quarterly review of DPSS contracts with the County Departments of Mental Health, Community and Senior Services, and Health, and review of new research and its implications for DPSS operations.

GOAL #4. EVALUATE THE CALWORKS PROGRAM

Objective 2: Monitor implementation of CalWORKs sanctions through prompt review of studies as they are released, including but not limited to research to be delivered to DPSS by CEO/SIB, and through quarterly review of Department sanctions statistics.

Objective 3: Evaluate the success of wage-based welfare programs.

Objective 4: Examine the status of CalWORKs children and youth, including but not limited to:

- Utilization of child care benefits, and quality of available child care services;
- Consideration of child-only CalWORKs cases, including examination of the level of assistance to children in child-only cases, the Department's service role, how adequately the needs (e.g. education, health care) of these aided children are met, and how many are "children at risk" known to the criminal justice, child protection, health and other County departments.
- Readiness for economic self-sufficiency of 18 and 19 year olds aging off the welfare caseload, including exploration of the question: Should the Department seek authority for extension of "welfare to work" services for the purpose of helping aged-out teens to prepare for work and independent living?

Objective 5: Consider housing issues of CalWORKs participants and families, including examination of current levels of housing insecurity (homelessness, fear of eviction, actual eviction, sub-standard housing, housing code enforcement, etc.) and the impact of housing insecurity upon program participation and employment. To what extent are existing and declining grant levels (unadjusted for inflation over six consecutive years) intensifying housing insecurity and failure to move families from welfare to work?

GOAL #4. EVALUATE THE CALWORKS PROGRAM

Objective 6: Evaluate CalWORKs take-up rates and the extent to which the CalWORKs program reaches families and children who are eligible for benefits and participation. There has been a steady decline in the percentage of children in poverty aided by CalWORKs. The evaluations to include consideration of such questions as: What loss of revenue to families, and to the local economy, is involved in the under-utilization of federal and state revenue? What is the status of unaided poor children in Los Angeles County? To what extent is the program providing assistance to all children legally eligible for benefits?

Objective 7: Evaluate the needs for and effectiveness of service integration relative to families and children in the CalWORKs population relative to basic income, medical care, nutrition, child care, transportation, specialized social services, including review of the Department's interaction with Mental Health, Corrections, Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Health, etc.

STRATEGY 3: ADDRESS TANF REAUTHORIZATION AND STATE INITIATIVES

Consider local impacts of federal and state actions.

Objective 1: (Timeline will be driven by actions at the federal level.) Determine what position and actions the Commission shall take on TANF reauthorization. Take action(s) as appropriate, including providing recommendations to the Director and the Board.

Objective 2: Report on impact in Los Angeles County of the federal realignment of welfare responsibilities to states and counties

GOAL #5: CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING(S) ON CRITICAL SOCIAL WELFARE ISSUE(S)

STRATEGY 1: MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF PAST COMMISSION INQUIRIES

Issue Leader: Chairman Frank de Balogh

Decide which issues may be advanced by the conduct a public hearing.

Objective 1: Consider issues raised by CORE or any other committees as possible topics for a public hearing.

STRATEGY 2: SURVEY STAKEHOLDERS' INTERESTS

Consider Commission priorities in relation to stakeholders' interests.

Objective 1: Recommend how to improve the surveying of stakeholders' issue priorities relative to the Commission's goals.

Objective 2: Using improved methods, survey stakeholders to identify what new issues they may wish the Commission to address during the period through June 30, 2011.

STRATEGY 3: SOLICIT AND REPORT PUBLIC OPINION ON SELECTED COMMISSION TOPIC(S)

Provide the public with information and opportunities to discuss and influence Los Angeles County welfare policies.

Objective 1: Explore the need to conduct at least one public hearing during the period through June 30, 2011.



GOAL #6: EVALUATE THE GENERAL RELIEF (GR) PROGRAM

STRATEGY 1: PARTICIPATE IN AND PROVIDE INPUT TO THE PROCESS OF REDESIGNING THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

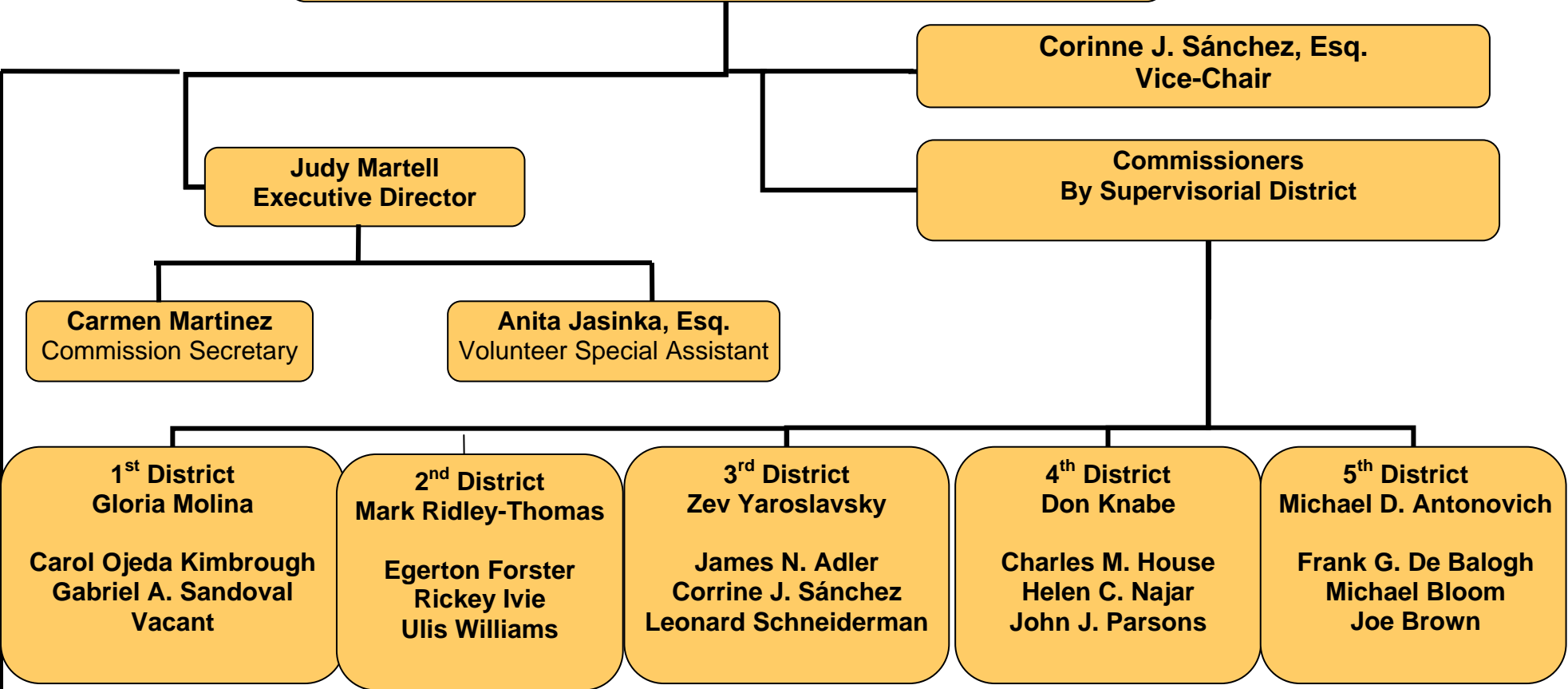
Issue Leader: Commissioner John Parsons

- Objective 1: Evaluate the process of moving individuals from General Relief (GR) to Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Objective 2: Coordinate changes in the General Relief Program related to Veterans proposed by the Commission with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
- Objective 3: Continue to have the Ad Hoc Committee on General Relief make recommendations to the Commission as appropriate;
- Objective 4: The chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Relief to function as principal spokesperson of the Commission on the issue of General Relief.
- Objective 5: Continue to support and promote all Commission recommendations made in the 2009 report by the Ad Hoc Committee on General Relief and any proposed design changes in the program endorsed by the Commission.

END OF FY 2010 - 2011 WORK PLAN

Updated: February 11, 2010

**Commission for Public Social Services
Organizational Chart**



Committees of the Commission:
 Committee for Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE) – Chairman: James N. Adler
 Committee on Emergency Preparedness –Chairman: Joe Brown
 Committee to Facilitate Communication with the Board of Supervisors – Chairman: Leonard Schneiderman, Ph.D.
 Committee on Performance Awards – Chairman: Helen C. Najjar
 Ad-Hoc Committee on At-Risk-Youth – Chairman: Joe Brown
 Ad-Hoc Committee on General Relief – Chairman: John J. Parsons (Acting)

Updated 2/10/10