

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 20**

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE ON CHILD WELFARE SERVICES REVIEW WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On August 10, 2018, at the request of San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), a time-limited working group known as the Child Welfare Services (CWS) Review Working Group (Working Group), was established to complete an assessment and report on the state of the County of San Diego (County) child welfare system. The Working Group, comprised of members of the County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council and community experts and stakeholders, was tasked to survey and identify system improvement needs for the County Health and Human Services Agency, CWS, including needs for quality assurance, personnel training, policy barriers, and outcome data to ensure the health and safety of dependent youth in foster care. On December 11, 2018 (12), the Working Group provided its final report to the Board with 88 specific recommendations for consideration by the Board. Between August 2018 and March 2022, collective actions were taken to review, identify, and implement systemic, operational, and practice improvements within CWS to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of youth in foster care.

Today's action requests the Board to receive the CWS Working Group Recommendations presentation on the completed 88 recommendations. This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by providing equitable access to quality, trauma-focused services, resources, and supports to strengthen families and ensure that children are healthy, safe, and thriving and are supported by high-quality resource families and a well-trained child welfare workforce.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Receive the *Child Welfare Services Review Working Group Recommendations* presentation.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides a spectrum of family strengthening, prevention, and protective services and supports to youth and families that are culturally responsive, youth-focused, and family-centered. While advancing the child welfare system, CWS engaged youth and families, the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board (CFSAB) of San Diego County and its subcommittees, the foster care community, child and family advocates, CWS staff, and system and legal partners to solicit ideas and recommendations on how to achieve positive outcomes and results as a family, community, and system level. The expanded engagement provided equitable opportunities for the community to contribute to change, increase racial

equity, and strengthen existing partnerships to maximize positive impact in the community. Throughout the three-year course of implementing enhancements and change, CWS maintained clear and transparent communication on efforts, relevant data, and progress through monthly updates and presentations at the CFSAB meetings and subcommittee meetings.

It is through this participatory approach and engagement that CWS, in collaboration with the CFSAB and stakeholders, was able to address and complete all 88 recommendations for a strengthened child welfare system. CWS remains committed to supporting children, youth, and families by providing just and equitable opportunities to achieve family well-being and providing resource families and child welfare staff with the supports, training, and resources needed to help families thrive.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation. Future related recommendations may have fiscal impacts which staff will return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter