

Los Angeles Regional Office:

4300 Long Beach Blvd., #750
Long Beach, CA 90807

Corporate Office:

801 E. Chapman #203
Fullerton, CA 92831
714.680.9000 | f: 714.680.8207

Programs and Services

Adoption Agency
Family Preservation
Program
Family Reunification
Program
Foster Family Agency
Internship Programs
Residential Treatment
Unaccompanied
Children's Program
Unaccompanied
Refuge Minor Program
Volunteer Program
Wraparound Program

Specialty Programs

Pregnant Parenting
Teen Support
Substance Abuse
Sexual Exploitation
Recovery

Locations

Compton
Escondido
Fullerton
Long Beach
Moreno Valley
Norwalk
Pomona
San Bernardino
Victorville

Mailing Address

PO Box 9
Fullerton, CA 92836-0009

Chief Executive Officer
Joyce R. Capelle

Chartered in 1966
A 501(c)3 nonprofit
Tax ID 95-2492427

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION
OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN INC.



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Achieve.
Empower.**

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Supervisor Mike Antonovich
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
869 Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Comments Regarding the Board Motion to Consolidate the County
Department of Mental Health with the Department of Health Services

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

Crittenton Services provides residential treatment, in-home and community-based services throughout much of Los Angeles County with offices in Long Beach, Compton, Norwalk and Pomona. We have been a long, and hopefully valued, part of the County's Continuum of Care for children, youth and families. We look forward to continuing that partnership, as we jointly seek to ensure the wellbeing of our constituents.

The Board of Supervisors has before it a proposal to merge three departments: Public Health, Health Services, and Mental Health. Ultimately, you will decide the proposal on its merits and will provide opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of your decision.

As you review the matter before you, we respectfully hope that you consider the following with regard to the Department of Mental Health:

- (1) Mental health, substance abuse, and medical care are in a transformative period under the Affordable Care Act in which mental health will be integrated with, not subsumed under, medical services. This is an important distinction and worth emphasizing in any department consolidation.
- (2) A fundamental right under ACA is the full parity of mental health and substance abuse treatment with medical services. Advocates have long stressed the important of ensuring parity and care should be taken to ensure that right. That may best be done under a Department of Mental Health that has equal organization standing with Health Services, and not a subsidiary of it.
- (3) There is a substantial body of research linking Adverse Childhood Experiences with long-term negative effects on mental health as well as general health. Early intervention, including social and emotional supports for caregivers, community engagement, and enhancing resiliency and all important efforts to ensure a healthy trajectory in the

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young lives we serve. We hope that the focus on early childhood interventions under the Department of Mental Health continues.

The proposal you contemplate may, in the end, be the best available option to create cost efficiencies and operational effectiveness. However, we hope that the gains we have made – and continue to make – in improving conditions for children and youth are protected. After all, children are the most valued, and most vulnerable, constituents.

Respectfully,

Joyce Capelle
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