

Board Meeting – February 21, 2023

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

G. Adoption of Board Resolution 31: to Recognize National Social Work Month, March 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 31 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 21, 2023; and further recommends that the Board proclaim the month of March 2023 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the social work profession.

Board Resolution No. 31 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the Los Angeles County LEAs to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this month, raise awareness about social work as a high-demand and rewarding profession and acknowledge the role of social workers in our educational communities with appropriate programs and activities aligned with this year’s theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers.”
- LACOE’s Mental Health and School Counseling (MHSC) Unit supports and recognizes the important work of social workers through the year through recognition events such as the school counselor and mental health professional of the year awards.
- The MHSC Unit provides support to school-based social workers and school-based social worker interns through quarterly collaboratives and learning communities.
- LACOE honors and celebrates our Community Schools Initiative and School Mental Health social workers, who provide multi-tiered systems of school mental health supports at LACOE schools and LACOE partner district Community Schools and seeks to promote the profession of social work through their work.
- LACOE’s Community Schools Initiative and School Mental Health social workers will be highlighted through social media and other communication mediums.
- The LACOE Community Schools Initiative, School Mental Health Senior Program Specialist and Psychiatric Social Workers further promote the profession of social work through the education and training of bachelor and master-level social work interns from seven universities placed in LACOE

Community Schools by providing field instruction, clinical supervision and hands-on experiences needed for their professional training and obtaining the Pupil Personnel Services Credential as a school social worker. These social work interns address the needs of the whole child by providing support and education to parents, addressing student and family basic needs, providing referral and linkages to services and identifying and treating mental health concerns experienced by students.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 31: 2022-2023

National Social Work Month 2023

- WHEREAS** the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us; and
- WHEREAS** the 2023 Social Work Month theme, “Social Work Breaks Barriers” embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, communities and our society to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being; and
- WHEREAS** children’s mental health is strengthened by supportive relationships and environments and can be put at risk by stress and negative experiences; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education, recognize the devastating impact COVID-19 has continued to have on students and families, and social workers have been tirelessly working within schools to support students and their families, enhance their emotional well-being and improve their academic performance; and
- WHEREAS** social workers provide multi-tiered systems of school mental health supports including performing crisis response, suicide prevention, and counseling services, make home visits, develop and implement trainings for students, parents, and staff, educate and provide consultation to staff on how to manage students' behavioral and mental health issues, and connect schools with mental health providers and other resources; and
- WHEREAS** social workers work in all parts of our society to meet students and families where they are and empower people to live to their fullest potential; and
- WHEREAS** social workers are one of the largest groups of mental health care providers in the United States, with about 708,000 social workers today and more than 60,000 more social workers to enter the profession in the next decade; and
- WHEREAS** social workers work daily to help people overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and
- WHEREAS** social workers help students and families cope with grief and loss, and help communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS social workers play a crucial role in our nation’s health care system and continue to play a key role in this nation’s ongoing response to COVID-19 and in helping individuals, families and communities cope with the epidemic; and

WHEREAS social workers for generations have advocated for positive changes that have made our society a better place to live, including urging policymakers to enact social safety net programs that help ameliorate hunger, homelessness and poverty; and

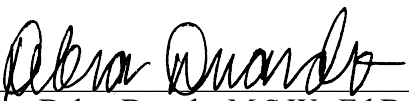
WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education supports each local education agency to empower students, families and school staff through a greater understanding of the social emotional needs of children and youth and access to greater mental health support for all students in schools and the community; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize that social emotional support, especially in the face of this pandemic, continues to be a serious problem for many students and families across Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS the future well-being of our county depends on the value we place on our youth and, in particular, on our actions to provide these most vulnerable of young people with mental health support and academic opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to develop into healthy, self-sufficient adults; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the numerous contributions made by social workers across the United States, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaim the month of March 2023 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the social work profession.

ADOPTED this 21st day of February 2023, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent



James Cross
Board President