

March 21, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 21, 2023

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

D. Adoption of Board Resolution 39: Recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 39 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 21, 2023; and further recommends that the Board declare April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge communities to recognize this month by working together to support child abuse prevention programs and activities.

Board Resolution No. 39 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE communication to all 80 districts to encourage districts, schools, and partner organizations to observe this month and with appropriate programs and activities.
- Promote kids art contest through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Continue to meet with county partners to identify strategies and resources to strengthen communities with children at the center, reduce unnecessary contact with the child welfare system, nurture and support thriving families, and empower youth and communities

BOARD RESOLUTION

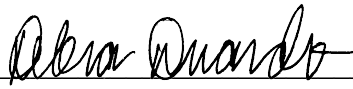
No. 39: 2022-2023

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2023

- WHEREAS,** Children are some of the most vulnerable members of society.
- WHEREAS,** communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect are serious concerns affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and
- WHEREAS,** public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, increase the risk for child abuse and neglect because of increased stressors and loss of financial and social supports, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional and physical effects that have lasting consequences for the victims; and
- WHEREAS,** Over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE recognizes that teachers and other school staff are in an optimal position to prevent, identify, and assist victims of child abuse and neglect because of their frequent contact with students; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE and the LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) collaborate to provide training, guidance and awareness opportunities regarding child abuse prevention information to educators; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE recognizes that providing linkages to community-based prevention services and access to resources to families whose children may be at risk of child abuse or neglect is critical; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse prevention remains the best defense for our children and families and effective prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, business, law enforcement agencies and families; and
- WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promoting the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families in a safe, stable and nurturing environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools declare April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge communities to recognize this month by working together to support child abuse prevention programs and activities.

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



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



James Cross
Board President