

February 20, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – February 20, 2024

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

G. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 37: to Recognize National Social Work Month, March 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 37 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 20, 2024; and further recommends that the Board proclaim the month of March 2024 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the social work profession.

Board Resolution No. 37 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

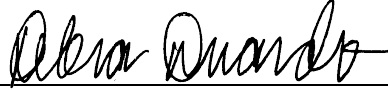
experiences needed for their professional training and obtaining the Pupil Personnel Services Credential as a school social worker. These social work interns address the needs of the whole child by providing support and education to parents, addressing student and family basic needs, providing referral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

**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**No. 37: 2023-24**  
**National Social Work Month 2024**

- WHEREAS,** Social Workers for decades have been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us; and
- WHEREAS,** Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities; 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,** Social Workers meet people where they are and help students, people, and communities reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** Social workers help students, families, and communities cope with grief and loss, and recover from crises such as natural disasters; and
- WHEREAS,** School Social workers provide multi-tiered systems of school mental health supports including performing crisis response, suicide prevention, and counseling services; develop, and facilitate 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,** The 2024 Social Work Month theme, “Empowering Social Workers!” embodies the need for society to support Social Workers so they can continue to do the life-affirming work they do and help address societal needs; 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 fundamental 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

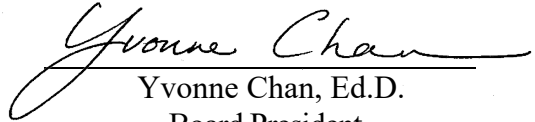
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** in recognition of the numerous contributions made by social workers across the United States, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaim the month of March 2024 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the social work profession.

**ADOPTED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



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Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.  
Board President