

March 19, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 19, 2024

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

D. Adoption of Board Resolution 43: Recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 43 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 19, 2024; 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 and awareness programs and activities.

Board Resolution No. 43 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. 43: 2023-24**

### **National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2024**

- WHEREAS,** in alignment with AB 2085, which went into effect in January of 2023, it is essential to distinguish economic disadvantage from neglect. Our commitment to fostering safer communities remains unwavering as we collaborate to ensure child safety and heal the legacy of over-reporting due to bias, which has resulted in trauma and over-surveillance of low income families of color; and
- WHEREAS,** our children are some of the most vulnerable members of our 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 safe and nurturing environments that are free from abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect profoundly affect all facets of our community.
- WHEREAS,** in alignment with AB 2085, which went into effect in January of 2023, it is essential to distinguish economic disadvantage from neglect. Our commitment to fostering safer communities remains unwavering as we collaborate to ensure child safety and heal the legacy of over-reporting due to bias, which has resulted in trauma and over-surveillance of low income families of color; and
- WHEREAS,** public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, increase the rise for child abuse and neglect due to increased stressors and loss of financial and social supports, as noted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse can have long-term and inter-generational 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 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 families, as well as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect due to their frequent contact with students; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) collaborate to provide training, guidance and awareness opportunities regarding supporting families, as well as preventing and responding to suspected abuse or neglect; and

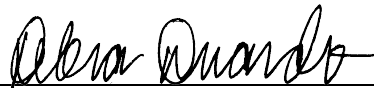
**WHEREAS,** LACOE recognizes that providing linkages to community-based prevention services and access to resources to families whose children may be at risk of child abuse or neglect is critical; and

**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 well-being 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 19th day of March 2024 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.  
Board President