



JANUARY 2020

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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# The Chair’s Incoming Message

*Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District*

As Chair of the 2020 Board of Supervisors, I have asked our County agencies to make youth success a top priority. My vision for my tenure is “Our County, Our Children, Our Commitment.” More than a catchy phrase, this effort is a challenge to all our departments to identify new and promising initiatives, strategies, and approaches that will amplify our mission to support and uplift youth.

**“We cannot let our youth fall into the devastating cycle of homelessness. Ending homelessness begins with ending hopelessness.”**

Every County department touches the lives of youth in some capacity, but none more than the Department of Children and Family Services, which at any given time has 35,000 open cases. About half of the cases are for children removed from their birth parents and for whom the County has become their de facto parent. Working with our community partners, we can change the trajectory of their lives and break the cycles of involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice system.

Ensuring self-sufficiency for transitional-age youth must remain a top priority, and we’re currently building an online portal to assist transitional-aged foster youth in navigating the resources available to them, including job training, housing, tutoring, and health services.

We cannot let our youth fall into the devastating cycle of homelessness. Many young people are dealing with serious mental illness, drug addiction, and trauma. It’s time we help them change direction with proactive intervention, care, and hope. Ending homelessness begins with ending hopelessness.

With these initiatives, and all that we face, partnership is critical for our County’s success. It will take all of us, including our city officials, business leaders, educational institutions, service providers, community-based organizations, non-profits, faith-based groups, and each of the 10 million residents we serve. Working collaboratively, we will accomplish these goals on behalf of the County’s youth, and we must do it together.



# Calendar of Events

## Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

### Ahmanson Theatre

January 14 through February 16 – The Last Ship

### Kirk Douglas Theatre

January 24 through February 23 – Until the Flood

### Mark Taper Forum

January 12 through February 23 – What the Constitution Means to Me

## Grand Park

(213) 972-8080

[www.grandparkla.org](http://www.grandparkla.org)

February 14 – Valentine’s Day at Grand Park: Lovers Rock  
Every Tuesday through Thursday – Lunch à La Park Food Trucks  
Every Wednesday and Friday – Lunch à La Park Yoga reTREAT

## The Music Center

(213) 972-7211

[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

## LA Phil

January 30 – USC Thornton Symphony

## Walt Disney Concert Hall

September 2019 through September 2020 – L.A. Murals Exhibit

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for  
information on employment  
opportunities with the  
County of Los Angeles



### Members of the Board

#### Kathryn Barger

Chair  
Fifth District

#### Hilda L. Solis

First District

#### Mark Ridley-Thomas

Second District

#### Sheila Kuehl

Third District

#### Janice Hahn

Fourth District



**Lisa M. Garrett**  
Director of Personnel

**Monica Paraja  
Dominguez**  
Senior HR Manager

**Vanessa Alvarez**  
Editor-in-Chief

## New Year, New Skills with L.A. County Library

Happy New Year! If you’re looking for ways to keep your new year’s resolutions, LA County Library has several free resources that can help!

Want to start a new fitness routine or rejuvenate your current one? Attend one of the free fitness and health workshops and classes at several of our library locations. Get your heart pumping with a Zumba class or de-stress with yoga or meditation workshops. Search for fitness or health on the events page to find ways to feel better and stay healthy at [LACountyLibrary.org/events](http://LACountyLibrary.org/events).

For those looking to develop personally or professionally, you can access our Online Learning resources filled with thousands of free online classes to help learn a new skill or language, get tutoring, or receive job coaching. Online Learning offers many different ways to learn, from over 500 self-paced courses with Universal Class, to more structured six-week classes with Gale Courses.

LA County Library  
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Submissions to the DIGEST may be  
edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at:  
<http://hr.lacounty.gov/about-the-county/>

## Department of Animal Care and Control's Program for People Experiencing Homelessness

Unfortunately, not everyone has the opportunity to have a home to share with their cherished family pets. People experiencing homelessness must sometimes make heart-wrenching decisions between being housed versus keeping their pets. Far too often, pet owners who lose a place to live can only find housing that does not allow pets. This places them in the impossible situation where they must decide to accept the housing and relinquish their pets, or keep their pets and remain without housing.

As part of Los Angeles County's holistic and multidisciplinary approach to helping people experiencing homelessness, the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) was compelled to develop a strategy enabling those homeless individuals and their pets to remain together. The bond with a pet may give a person in need of housing the emotional strength to carry on during such a difficult time, and losing their pet could lead to further devastation of their emotional well-being. We believe strongly that pets should remain with the families that love and want them.

To assist pet owners experiencing homelessness, our trained staff counsels them about options for them and their pets. Sometimes all that is needed for a dog to be welcomed in a temporary living space is a dog crate or to be groomed. Periodically, referral to County services can help bridge the gap. If these interventions cannot resolve the situation, we may temporarily house and care for the pet(s) while the family finds stable, pet-friendly housing.

Yvette Garcia was faced with this difficult decision when domestic violence caused her to experience homelessness. Her dogs helped get her through the crisis, and she could not feel safe unless she had them by her side. The temporary shelter she found for herself could not accommodate her dogs, so Yvette reached out to our Department for help. Our compassionate employees at the Lancaster Animal Care Center made arrangements to temporarily care for her dogs.

Once Yvette was sure that her dogs were safe and cared for, she was able to focus on taking steps to rebuild her life. Our Lancaster team enjoyed being able to provide care to these beloved dogs; however, the best part was being able to reunite them with Yvette once she had secured permanent housing for all of them.



Thanks to Los Angeles County's commitment to helping people experiencing homelessness, DACC has been able to help hundreds of pets and their owners. Families belong together, and pets are an equal part of our families.

## Department of Public Social Services Toy Loan Program

The Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) Toy Loan Program and Amazon are again encouraging charitable donations from County of Los Angeles employees via the Amazon Wishlist website to benefit nine Toy Loan Centers serving low-income communities.

With the support of the County's Internal Services Department, the Amazon Wishlist site brings the convenience of Amazon shopping to benefit thousands of families who rely on the Toy Loan Program. DPSS encourages donors to post a screenshot of their Toy Loan donation to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with #ToyLoan.

Children borrow toys and develop a sense of responsibility through the observance of an honor code and a merit system that gives praise and recognition when toys are returned on time and undamaged. A child can receive an Honor Award and a new toy to keep by taking good care of the toy they borrowed and returning the toy within the allotted time.

To obtain a list of the nine Toy Loan Center sites where a charitable donation can be made, visit <http://toydrive.lacounty.gov>. The Amazon Wishlist site allows users to geographically select a site where items can be shipped directly to a Toy Loan Center. For more information about the Toy Loan Program, call 213-744-4344 or email [ToyLoan@DPSS.lacounty.gov](mailto:ToyLoan@DPSS.lacounty.gov).



# RESPECTING PRIVACY SAFEGUARDING DATA ENABLING TRUST

Jan. 28 | #PrivacyAware

**Data Privacy Day** is an international effort to empower businesses and individuals to respect privacy and safeguard data. Together with the National Cyber Security Alliance, the County of Los Angeles encourages you to join the **#PrivacyAware** campaign by visiting:

<https://staysafeonline.org/data-privacy-day>

County workforce members must comply with County Information Security policies in order to reasonably safeguard client data and/or employee data, and prevent unauthorized disclosure or misuse of such data. The tips below are great ways to uphold a culture of privacy in the workplace, and to also protect your own personal information.

## PRIVACY PROTECTION TIPS

- **Defend:** Treat all County data that contains personal information as highly sensitive and confidential. Only share such data with authorized recipients.
- **Email:** Proceed with caution when receiving emails from parties who are external to the County. Use the Report Phishing button in Outlook to report any suspicious emails. Send **[Secure]** emails to external recipients if the message contains any personal information.
- **Software:** Ensure that your computer is up to date with critical software security patches by your department, and contact the help desk with any questions.
- **Passwords:** Use strong and unique passwords on every account, and incorporate 2 factor authentication (2FA) whenever possible. Regularly update passwords. Using a password manager is a great way to create and keep track of your passwords.
- **WiFi:** Public wireless networks are not secure. Use a secure network when transmitting personal information and confidential data.
- **Secure:** Store documents with personal information in locked areas at your workstation. Dispose of those documents in locked trash bins or always use a paper shredder.
- **Questions:** If you have data privacy questions, contact your Departmental Information Security Officer (DISO), the County's Chief Information Security Officer, or the County's Chief Privacy Officer at [privacy@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:privacy@ceo.lacounty.gov).

# DPSS Hosts First-Ever General Relief Transition Youth Career Training Summit

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Compton Community College, and Wolf Connection® recently collaborated to host the first-ever General Relief Transition Age Youth Summit. The summit connected at-risk youth, ages 18-24, to various opportunities, resources, and organizations aligned with three distinct self-sufficiency pathways: education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

A special pre-summit activity allowed participating youth to experience Wolf Therapy, a unique educational sanctuary and wilderness retreat where the youth had direct interaction with 60 rescued wolves for the purpose of empowering the youth to become independent and authentic leaders. The therapy has proven to be effective in helping to regain trust and provide a physically safe and supportive environment to build self-esteem.

Additional summit highlights include assistance with enrollment into educational and training programs at Compton Community College, the County of Los Angeles Fire Department “Platform to Dream” program to learn about careers as first responders, an entrepreneurial workshop provided by the Creative Incite Collective, and a Career Readiness and Workforce Development Workshop facilitated by Squarage® founder Eric Fan.



## Share Your Heart Share Your Home

Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent



*Photo by Philicia Endelman*

With this New Year, why not make a resolution to do something that can make a true difference in the life of a child? Whether it’s through your place of worship, work, or with friends, you can share Ocean’s photo and help him find a family.

Ocean, age 11, is a happy, engaging, and personable young boy. He enjoys going out on various outings with his Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer. He loves playing video games, building Lego masterpieces, completing puzzles, and watching Disney programs, especially super hero shows. Ocean likes pizza and loves going to Chuck E. Cheese. Ocean is a child who is sweet, helpful, and quite independent. He washes dishes and even knows how to wash his own clothes. Ocean will benefit from a family with a lot of structure and clear communication. He hopes that his forever family will support his relationship with his older siblings that he is separated from.

It is said it takes a village to raise a child, and in this case let’s be the village that finds Ocean a family! If you are interested in featuring his photo in your place of worship bulletins or want more information on how you can help spread the word in our big community about finding children permanent adoptive families, contact Stephanie Clancy, Department of Children and Family Services Heart Gallery Program Manager, at (626) 691-1466 or via email at [clancs@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:clancs@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

# HOME FIRE SAFETY PREPAREDNESS



More than 3,200 Americans die each year in fires, with more than 15,000 people who are injured. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has tips on how you and your family can stay safe and prepare for emergencies.

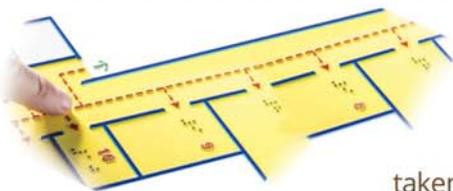
## Create Your Escape Plan

Smoke alarms can only alert you about danger, but you need to take action! Come up with an escape plan and practice it twice a year.

Here is what you need to know to create your family's evacuation plan:

**1. Immediately Leave Your Home** – Do not waste time gathering and protecting belongings. Get out and then call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

**2. Know Two Ways Out of Each Room** – If the primary exit is blocked, you will need a second way out; it can be a window or by using an escape ladder. Practice escaping through both exits. If you use a window as an escape route, make sure there are no bars on the windows. If there



are bars, ensure they have a quick release lever on them. Also, be sure window screens can be taken off quickly.

**3. Feel the Door** – Before opening a door during a fire, touch the doorknob with the back of your hand to make sure it is not hot. If it is, a fire may possibly be on the other side which means a secondary escape route should be used. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully.

**4. Designate a Meeting Place** – Agree on a location that is a safe distance where everyone can meet. A meeting place lets you know that everyone has gotten out safely.

**5. Once Out, Stay Out** – Never go back into a burning building for any reason! If someone is missing, tell firefighters. They are trained and equipped to perform rescues safely.

## Safety Tips



**SMOKE ALARMS** – Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm. Change batteries every six months on each smoke alarm to ensure it works properly.

**PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES** – Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords or wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.

**USE APPLIANCES WISELY** – When using appliances, follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Unusual smells, shorts or sparks are all indications that the appliance needs to be shut off and replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use.

**PLAN YOUR ESCAPE** – Make an escape plan for every room in the house and practice it at least twice a year.

**TEACH CHILDREN** – Take the mystery out of fire by teaching them that fire is a tool, **NOT** a toy.

**PORTABLE HEATERS** – Give portable heaters their own space. For your safety, keep anything flammable or combustible at least three feet away from any heater.



**SAFELY PLUG IN CORDS** – To avoid risk of fire, plug cords directly into a wall socket rather than using an extension cords.



Discover more safety topics at:  
[fire.lacounty.gov](http://fire.lacounty.gov)

 [facebook.com/LACoFD](https://www.facebook.com/LACoFD)

 [instagram.com/lacountyfd](https://www.instagram.com/lacountyfd)

 [twitter.com/LACoFD](https://www.twitter.com/LACoFD)

# Retirees

*Congratulations for your many years of service to the County of Los Angeles*

## 45+ Years

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Dorothy A. Neal  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Elsa R. Martinez-Aly  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Sharon M. Williams  
**PARKS & RECREATION:** Paul D. Numer  
**REGIONAL PLANNING:** Gary D. Fountain  
**SHERIFF:** Dernice Samuel  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Regina M. Stewart

## 40+ Years

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Jacelene Donner, Rebecca F. Lumasag  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Alicia Munoz  
**PARKS & RECREATION:** Danny Garcia  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Amelia Garcia, Cynthia Lopez

## 35+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Constance F. Meissen  
**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Victoria Slater  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** John F. Urgo  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Lorraine Torres  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Steven A. Lund  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Jane J. White  
**SHERIFF:** Joseph M. Dulla Jr., James R. Grady, Donna A. Valdez

## 30+ Years

**ASSESSOR:** Charles Hazel, Warren C. Pak, Francis D. Taylor, Robert Yu  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Elena Catbagan  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Sung-Im Kim, Randal J. Mc Nary  
**FIRE:** Raymond A. Garcia, Jack L. Haynes, Chet W. Hopkins, Douglas K. Lacount, Richard J. Leuck Jr., Angel Montoya  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Veronica Lewis-Houston, Charito C. Ocampo, Martha C. Pineda, Maribel Roque, Evelyn P. Yamboa, Tina R. Morello, Rigoberto Sierra  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Shadia S. Morcos  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Ileana Bonilla, Marivic G. Panlilio  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Elizabeth J. Atkinson, Sonia E. Carter Rosad, Ming-Ming H. Lee, Juan Munoz, Phuong X. Trieu  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Thomas H. Browne

**SHERIFF:** Louis P. Bookout, Robert M. Farkas, Todd McCraven, Deborah L. Trejo, Edward R. Winslow, Josefina C. Castillo

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Theresa C. Allen, Donald J. Brostoff, Jacqueline M. Walker, Reniece A. Wade, Sherrie Worku

## 25+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Joannem Avila-Baker, Maria R. Sanchez, Izolda Sigal-Liberman

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Margarita Gomez, Wendy C. Knittle

**CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS:** Cynthia L. Tucker

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Mark Cenovich, Floyd Wyatt Jr.

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Nora P. Diaz, Maria E. Garibay, Olufunke C. Jaiyeola, Emma Mariano-Mana

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Paul L. Nguyen

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Maria E. Lepe

**PROBATION:** Evelyn Olivas

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Gilbert Mares Jr.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Luz L. Barajas, Debra E. Goode

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Haregnesh Adamu, Anitsa Boghossian, Sandy J. Caronado, Hasmik Hatamian, Consuelo Irueta, Connie P. Lai, Mario Munoz

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Charles A. Gonzales

**SHERIFF:** Allen R. Dollens, Phyllis M. Stevenson

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Hilda Severson

**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Eva P. Labarda

### **LA County Library** *continued from page 2*

Learn everything from business and career training to new languages, crafts, design, law, and more! With your LA County Library card you will also be able to access Brainfuse, the Library's most recently added learning service for all ages and levels. Brainfuse offers live online tutoring, job help, career prep, and other skill building resources. Get more information by visiting [LACountyLibrary.org/learn](http://LACountyLibrary.org/learn).

If your new year's resolution is to read more, join a book club! What better way to help you keep on top of your reading list and gain new perspectives while meeting new people? Studies show that reading can help reduce stress, enhance your brain, and improve lifespan. Reading and discussing with others can also encourage creativity and increase conversational skills. Check out our booklists to discover something new this year by visiting [LACountyLibrary.org/reading-clubs](http://LACountyLibrary.org/reading-clubs).



Los Angeles County African American Employees Association (LACAAEA)  
Elevate • Educate • Empower



INVITES YOU TO OUR

INAUGURAL  
*gala* "Black Tie Affair"  
& FUNDRAISER

RESTORING HOPE AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

**6:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

THE L.A. GRAND HOTEL DOWNTOWN  
333 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, California 90071



Honoree  
**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
Supervisor Second District



Keynote Speaker  
**DEBORAH FLINT, CEO**  
Los Angeles World Airports

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Hosted Cocktail Hour  
Inner City Youth Orchestra Los Angeles  
7:00 PM – 11:00 PM Dinner and Program  
The Sai Whatt Band

★ **\$90 LACAAEA Members | \$100 Non-Members** ★  
Ticket Purchase Deadline – February 7, 2020

\*Online purchase at [www.lacaaea.org](http://www.lacaaea.org) or purchase directly from Committee Members

**PARKING OPTIONS:**  
Self-Parking \$8  
(World Trade Center across the street-  
access to hotel via walk bridge)  
Hotel Valet Parking \$20

Gala inquiries: [lacaaegala2020@gmail.com](mailto:lacaaegala2020@gmail.com)  
or 818.445.9952

**SOCIAL IMPACT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT COMMITTEE**  
Armetha Bravo, Chair, DHS  
Jeremy Gray, Co-Chair, BOS  
Kenisha Collins, DHS  
April Robinson, CSSD  
Jake Ross, DPSS  
Lesbia Ross, DPSS  
Nicole White-Gamble, Assessor

\*Event-Brite fee applicable for online ticket purchase  
LACAAEA is a 501(c) (3) organization and a registered County employee organization.

