Domestic Violence Council (DVC)
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, September 5th, 2025
10:00AM to 12:30PM (PT)
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
& Virtual (MS Teams)

Welcome Remarks

Welcome and Introductions

- Your name
- Pronouns
- Title/Role
- Agency or Affiliation

Meeting Protocol

- Please be reminded that this is an open and public convening. Anything discussed in this space is not protected nor confidential. No client or survivor identifying information should be discussed/shared.

- The foundation of ending gender-based violence is anti-oppression; holding the value of equity, dignity and respect. By participating in this space, you are agreeing to uphold these values and conduct.

- When sharing, focus on issues and not people.

- Take turns when speaking. Step up and step back; allowing for equal time for all to share.

- Please hold comments and remarks to 2 minutes or less.

Agenda

DESCRIPTION	LEAD
Welcome and Introductions. (10 min.)	**Lan Pham, Executive Director** **Domestic Violence Council (DVC)** LA County – Dept. of Public Health
Centralized Access – Care Connect Update (30 min.)	**Cristina Cortes, Senior Manager** **Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition** Downtown Women's Center
Immigration Report (40 min.)	**Kathleen Rivas, Supervising Attorney** **Immigrants' Rights Project** Public Counsel LA VAWA Network
Early Defense for Child Welfare Impacted Families (40 min.)	**Sharon Balmer Cartagena, Directing Attorney** **Child, Youth & Family Advocacy** Public Counsel & **Minyong Lee, Supervising Attorney** Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
DVC Bylaws update (10 min.)	**Lan Pham, Executive Director** **Domestic Violence Council (DVC)** LA County – Dept. of Public Health
Matter not on the posted agenda) (10 min.)	All
Public Comments (10 min.)	All
Meeting adjourns	

Centralized Access - Care Connect Update

Cristina Cortes, Senior Manager

Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition

Downtown Women's Center

Immigration Report

Kathleen Rivas, Supervising Attorney

Immigrants' Rights Project

Public Counsel

LA VAWA Network

Immigration Report

Presented by the LA VAWA Network

Kathleen Rivas – Supervising Attorney

Immigration Updates Agenda

1. ICE Enforcement in Los Angeles Area
2. USCIS Updates
3. U/T/VAWA Updates
4. Notario Fraud (aka immigration fraud)

ICE Enforcement in LA

I. ICE raids in Los Angeles

A. Vasquez Perdomo v. Noem and the TRO

B. Know Your Rights - sensitive locations are no longer protected against ICE enforcement but ICE still needs a judicial warrant to enter private areas of organizations/shelters/businesses

II. ICE enforcement against DV Survivors

A. Recission of victim centered memo and gutting of prosecutorial discretion for survivors

B. Differing treatment by ICE of deferred action for U visa applicants

C. Re-calendaring of administratively closed cases in immigration court

USCIS Updates

I. NTA (Notice to Appear) Memo

II. Frequent administrative changes

A. Filing fees, filing locations, and immigration forms are frequently updated with little to no warning

B. Results in an increase in denied applications and the need to re-file applications, which requires an increase in requests to law enforcement to re-sign U visa law enforcement certifications

III. Increase in information sharing between USCIS and ICE

A. ICE arrests at USCIS appointments

U/T/VAWA Updates

I. These forms of immigration relief for DV survivors are still available and would take an act of Congress to undue

A. Work permits and deferred action for pending applications are still valid and renewable

B. USCIS has discretion to revoke work permits and deferred action but they would need to send individualized notices to each applicant

C. USCIS has wide discretion on policies that affect adjudication of these applications

II. The risks of filing affirmative, survivor-based applications have increased

A. Survivors should conduct an individual risk analysis with an attorney before filing any affirmative applications

Notario Fraud

- The risks of working with a non-attorney on immigration cases have exponentially increased
- Bad actors take advantage of the climate of fear in immigrant communities, making false promises and filing meritless applications, placing survivors at further risk
- Community members should seek out free, low-cost attorneys and learn how to protect themselves against fraud

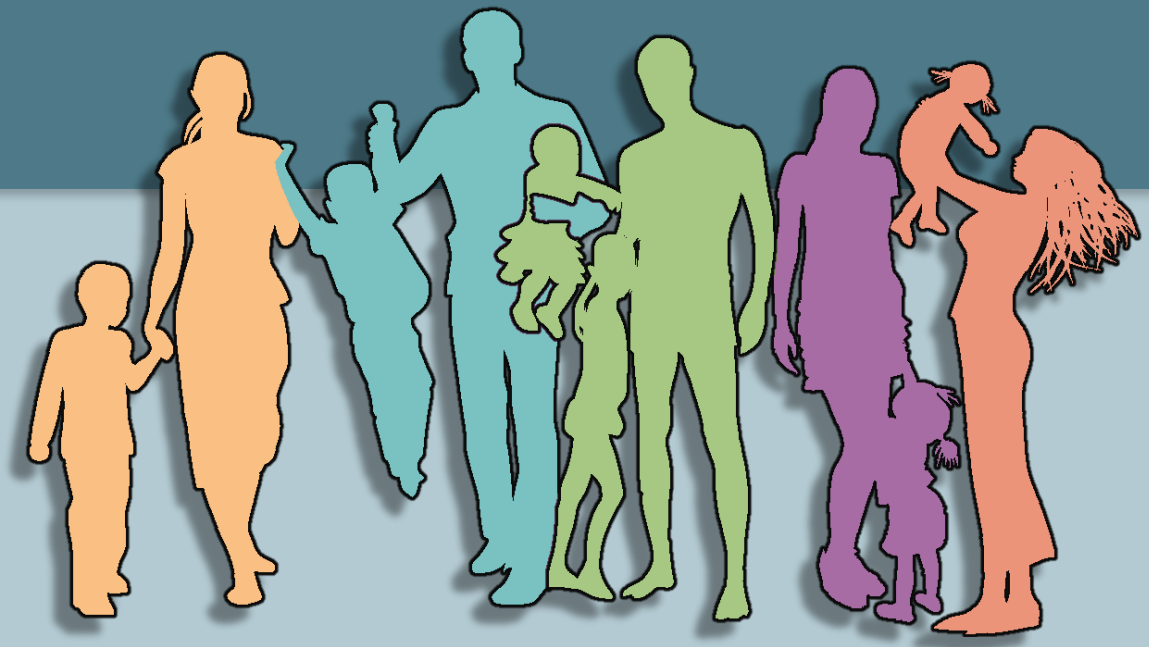
Early Defense for Child Welfare Impacted Families

Sharon Balmer Cartagena
Directing Attorney
Child, Youth & Family Advocacy
Public Counsel

Minyong Lee
Supervising Attorney
Neighborhood Legal Services of
Los Angeles County

Early Defense for Child Welfare-Impacted Families:

How civil legal aid can keep families together



Preventive Legal Advocacy (PLA)

Services that support families and promote the social determinants of health by addressing upstream civil legal issues that, left unresolved, can result in unnecessary child welfare system entanglement

Civil Legal Issue: Domestic Violence

Mom calls the police after an incident of domestic violence; the police call DCFS. DCFS tells Mom to get a restraining order.

PLA

PLA atty could step in and represent mom at initial DCFS contact.

Inability to Obtain a Restraining Order

Mom is unable to navigate Family Court and does not get a restraining order.

PLA

PLA atty could help Mom obtain a restraining order, if appropriate.

DCFS Report is Substantiated

DCFS report is substantiated for failure to protect and the worker removes the child from the home.

PLA

PLA atty could counsel mom through investigation to prevent substantiation and removal

Removal Order Signed & Children in Care

Following removal, mom is summoned to appear and for the first time she's assigned legal counsel.

PP*

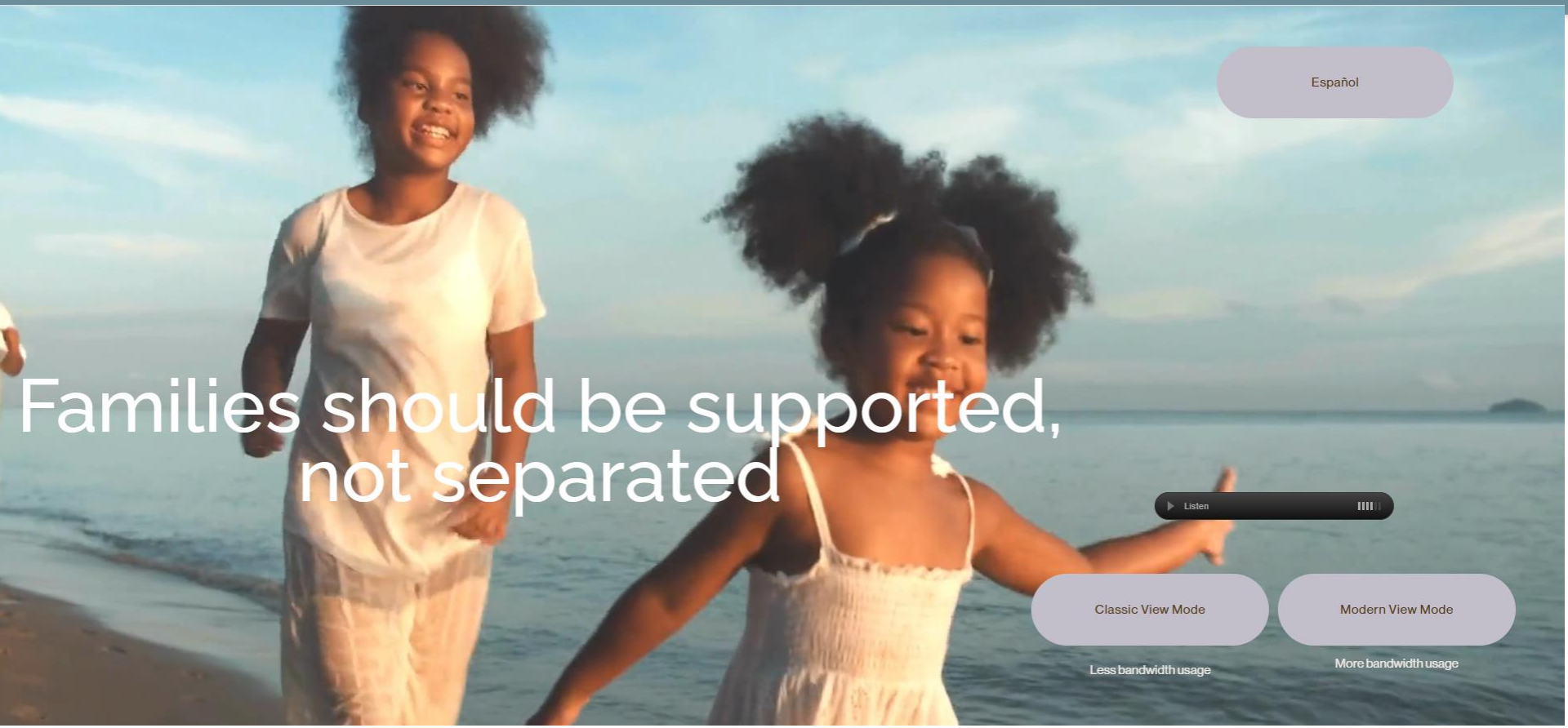
PLA atty could work with dependency counsel so they can prepare a defense prior to crt and secured a return

Los Angeles County's Vision

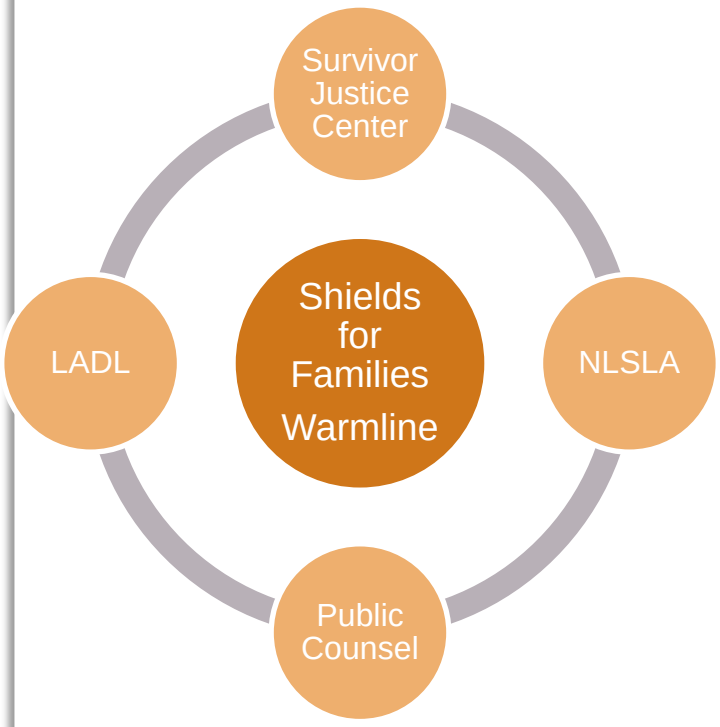
Since Spring 2022, **Public Counsel**, with Casey Family Programs, has led a coalition of advocacy groups in monthly meetings.

During the process, we consulted with lived experts, community based organizations, key DCFS leadership and staff, and County Counsel.

Know Your Rights: https://www.parentsupportline.org/



Los Angeles Warmline Hub | Legal Aid Spokes



Families receive **concrete, real-time legal information** and know their rights during the investigation process through an interactive website and warmline.

Families may be screened in to receive **support from a team** that includes parent partners, attorneys, and social workers who will:

- **Guide the family** through the investigatory process, and
- **Provide legal representation** on legal issues underlying the referral.

Families **experience less trauma** resulting from the investigation, and are **better prepared to partner with child welfare** if the agency needs to take action to ensure child safety.

Keep Families Together Initiative

Core Legal Partners for this project include: A New Way of Life, Bet Tzedek, Children's Law Center, Inner City Law, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, Public Counsel, Survivor Justice Center

Partnership with DCFS

- **CSWs refer all families** at beginning of investigation phase to SHIELDS for Families

- **SHIELDS for Families receives referrals and assesses families' needs** for services and supports to address safety concerns in partnership with DCFS and legal services providers

- **Keep open lines of communication** with SHIELDS for Families and legal services providers to address families' needs and share any new information uncovered during the investigation

- **Work together to "bust barriers"** to implementation and focus on solutions

How is it going? March to August

Families Stronger Together LA/ PLS Weekly Update (#'s to date)		
ER CSW Referrals	Totals	
Total Referrals from DCFS	193	
Total Referrals from Other Sources	16	
Combined Total	209	
Service: Demographics	Families	Children
Total Black/African American Families	60	111
Total Hispanic/Latinx Families	145	255
Total Native Families	1	1
Total Multi-racial Families	3	3

Service: Outcomes		
Total # of investigations closed (# of families)	71	
# of children remaining in home (from the # of families with closed investigations)	155	
Black/African American children (of the # of children remaining in the home)	50	
Hispanic/Latinx children (of the # of children remaining in the home)	101	
Native American children (of the # of children remaining in the home)	1	
Multi-racial children (of the # of children remaining in the home)	3	
Total # of petitions filed (# of Families)	23	Children
# of the total petitions filed resulting in detention/removal	9	18

Most common service needs:

- Mental health
- Housing related
- Material supports

Most common legal needs:

- Family law and IPV
- Eviction defense
- Immigration

Lan Pham, Executive Director
Domestic Violence Council (DVC)
Los Angeles County – Department of Public health

Matters Not Posted on the Agenda
To be included in the next DVC General Membership
(10 minutes)

Announcements
and
Public Comments
(10 minutes)

Please take a few minutes to complete our post meeting survey and let us know your thoughts about today's meeting. Thank you!

Quarter 3 Survey URL:
https://compyle.clearimpact.com/#/public/survey/C21EFE77-BC91-4867-BCD9-4B54B77C0CF3

QR Code

Scan the following QR code

Next Steps

Next DVC General Membership Meeting
Friday, December 5th, 2025, 10:00AM to 11:30AM
Kenneth Hahn Hall, Room 140

Next DVC Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, December 5th, 2025, 11:30AM to 12:30PM
Kenneth Hahn Hall, Room 140