ITEM: 3.58
(ID # 17884)
MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, December 07, 2021

FROM : SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES :

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES: Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Assess Opportunities for Inter-Departmental Systems Improvement for the Protection of Vulnerable Children and Adults

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
1. Create an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate and assess opportunities for inter-departmental systems improvement for the protection of vulnerable children and adults within the County of Riverside.
2. Appoint Supervisor Karen Spiegel and Supervisor Kevin Jeffries to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee.

ACTION:Policy

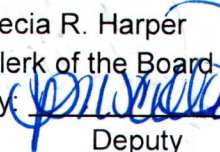Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Chair   12/3/2021   Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Supervisor 1st. District   12/3/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 7, 2021
xc: BOS-District 2, District 1, E.O.

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

BACKGROUND:
Summary

The County of Riverside operates a system of programs and services working towards fulfillment of its mission to support and improve the health, safety, well-being and independence of our county's adults and children in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility, and foster independence.

In recent years, the County of Riverside, under direction of the Board of Supervisors, has worked diligently to support new departmental leadership in enacting evidence-based, welfare focused systems improvements and transformations which positively impact the County's ability to provide care for and to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

High profile incidents have spotlighted areas where the County must direct attention and resources to support transformation and enhancement of department efforts including the way in which multiple departments work across the system to create integrated service delivery.

Under the leadership of Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Chair of the Board, the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer have engaged Larson, LLP, a law firm led by former U.S. District Judge Stephen G. Larson, to conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation specifically as it relates to recent allegations surrounding the care, services and placement provided to the 13 Turpin siblings by Riverside County departments.

To facilitate a thorough and transparent review, analysis, and assessment of the County systems, Supervisor Karen Spiegel and Supervisor Kevin Jeffries recommend the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to receive regular status reports and updates from Larson LLP, ensure full and complete access to any and all relevant information to support the inquiry, and to make recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors regarding policy directives, systems changes, and service delivery improvements.

Supervisor Karen Spiegel and Supervisor Kevin Jeffries will serve as Co-Chairs of this Ad Hoc Committee, and will work with their colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer to take meaningful action upon completion of the independent investigation and recommendation by Larson LLP to enhance and improve upon the County of Riverside's ability to provide support and protection for the welfare of all residents.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Thorough analysis of the policies and practices used across County of Riverside departments when providing care and protective services to vulnerable children and adults within our care will allow for meaningful systems improvements.