

Los Angeles County Fairness and Equity Update

Mark Miller

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Presentation Summary

Mark Miller, Director of Training for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, discussed the strengths, challenges and opportunities in the current work of Los Angeles County to address fairness and equity issues. With specific recommendations for training workers and supervisors, Mr. Miller discussed the importance of consolidating mandates and initiatives as a way to engage the community and other stakeholders to respond to issues of disproportionality through prevention, reunification and permanence. Of special importance is the development of training partnerships with university schools of social work and in-service training with resource families to improve culturally competent practices throughout the system. Trainers need to be supported with tools, resources and time to develop skills to create learning environments that successfully address cultural competency issues. In addition, both workers and supervisors need to share a common understanding of associated standards and practices, and to recognize their mutual accountability in the delivery of culturally-responsive services.