



January 23, 2020

INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT HOME VISITING SCALE AND QUALITY

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Family Functioning

Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Commissioners will hear a brief presentation by Dr. Deborah Daro, Senior Research Fellow from University of Chicago, who is considered one of the nation's leading experts on child abuse prevention policy and home visiting research, on the topic of state-level and statewide systems to support home visiting scale and quality. A discussion will follow the presentation.

BACKGROUND OF KEY ISSUES

Governor Newsom's significant investment in home visiting in the 2019–20 Budget Act recognizes the need to expand home visiting to reach the needs of California's families and children, and the evidence that home visiting – when high-quality and implemented as a critical part of the broader early childhood comprehensive system – is proven to reduce or prevent the effects of adverse experiences for children.

Dr. Daro's current work focuses on the unique and pivotal role early intervention programs, such as home visiting programs, can play in strengthening parental capacity across diverse populations, enhancing child development, and keeping children safe. Most recently, Dr. Daro's research and writing have focused on developing reform strategies that embed individualized, targeted prevention efforts within more universal efforts to alter normative standards and community context.

Dr. Daro's seminal article, *A Shift in Perspective: A Universal Approach to Child Protection*, was published in the spring 2019 edition of the *Future of Children*, and can be accessed at <https://futureofchildren.princeton.edu/news/universal-approaches-promoting-healthy-development>.

Dr. Daro writes, “The time is right for a universal approach that reaches out to all new parents, offering each family a level of assistance commensurate with their needs” (p. 17).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

In July 2019, the Commission approved up to \$2 million to contract with an evaluator to study the current home visiting workforce, project future workforce needs, and recommend policy and infrastructure investments to address the workforce gap.

In October 2019, the Commission approved up to \$24 million through June for local and regional coordination grants. The grants are designed to promote development of a sustainable, unified home visiting system that supports families with the services they need and maximizes available funding to serve more families.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Deborah Daro Biography