

REIMAGINE NCHILD SAFETY

A white silhouette of a family consisting of a woman, a man, and a small child, all walking and holding hands. The woman is on the left, the child is in the middle, and the man is on the right. They are positioned to the left of the word 'NCHILD' in the title.

Presentation to the Los Angeles County
Commission on Children and Families
Racial Justice Committee
July 14, 2025

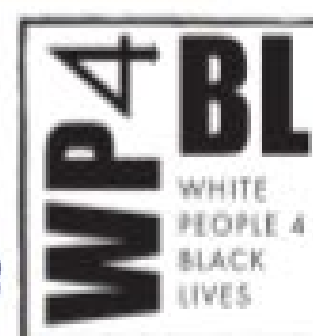
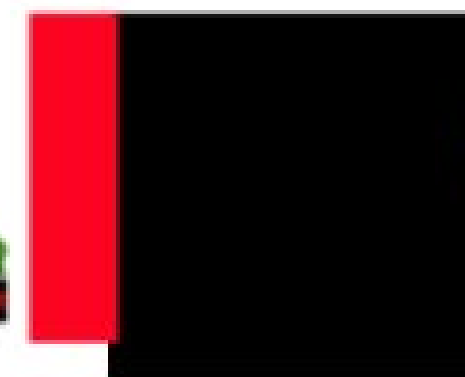
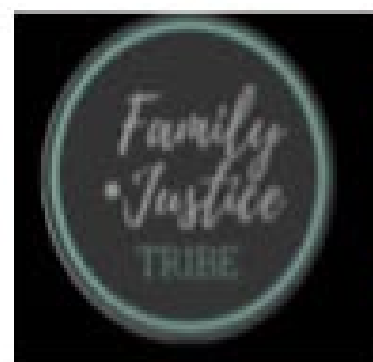
Agenda

- 1 Introduction to Reimagine Child Safety Coalition
- 2 Why Family Policing is a Racial Justice Issue
- 3 Our Demands
- 4 Impact of Our Work
- 5 Current Initiatives
- 6 Call to Action

who we are



BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS



Why We formed the Coalition

- In the wake of the George Floyd uprisings, families and youth with lived experience, community organizations, and parents' attorneys came together to build a vision for a world in which:
 - all communities and families have the resources and support that they need to thrive;
 - the safety of children is not determined by the economic status of their families;
 - parents are not deemed “unsafe” or “unfit” based on the color of their skin

In our reimagined world...

1

Children's inalienable rights to their parents are not stripped from them. In our current world, that is most likely to happen to Black and Indigenous children.

2

Financial and other resources are equitably distributed to communities so that those who are systematically disadvantaged by institutionalized racism receive the greatest investments and are able to determine for themselves the allocation of those resources.

3

Families that have been ripped apart by the current racist family policing system receive reparations for the harm caused and resources for ongoing support to address the trauma and irreparable damage they've suffered.

family policing is a racial justice issue

- State-sanctioned family separation has deep roots throughout U.S. history up to today
 - Slavery
 - Orphan Trains
 - Indian Boarding Schools
 - Immigration
- DCFS disproportionately investigates Black and Indigenous children
 - 58% of Black children in LA will be investigated before they turn 18

our Demands

The RCS Coalition agreed on 11 demands that we believe will end state-sanctioned family separation and transform the way that we support and care for families in our community. These demands, addressed to the BOS, include:

1. Ending police “partnerships” with social workers
 - a. Police should stop referring children to DCFS because their parent or guardian has experienced domestic violence.
2. Placing a moratorium on detentions related to:
 - a. general neglect as defined by DCFS
 - b. children whose parent or guardian has experienced domestic violence
 - c. children or parents who test positive for drugs during pregnancy or at birth
3. Providing counsel to parents at the beginning of any DCFS investigation.

our Demands (con't)

4. Granting parents the right to record all interviews and conversations.
5. Mandating that social workers advise parents of their rights at first interaction with DCFS.
6. Identifying and connecting all parents to all available services. DCFS must pay for all court -ordered services.
7. Prioritizing relative/kinship foster care placements and removing any and all barriers for family members who want to care for children who have been removed from their parents.

our Demands (con't)

8. Eliminating drug testing by DCFS and by hospital staff for pregnant, laboring, and postnatal people, and infants in hospitals.

9. Establishing an independent civilian oversight committee led by parents/people with lived experience.

10. Upholding the rights of incarcerated parents and their children in foster care by ensuring consistent communication and visitation; providing education and resources; and addressing other common issues.

11. Guaranteeing basic income for all families.

impact of our work so far (our wins)

- Pre-petition legal services pilot supported by BOS
- **LA County hospital parental/newborn drug testing policy changed**
- Collaboration w/ UCLA Law to publish groundbreaking report on LEA/DCFS relationships
- **Coalition expansion -- RCS Bay Area and beyond**
- Coalition members with lived experience participated in state Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Initiative and LA Mandatory Supporting Initiative



Current initiative #1: Limiting LASD from referring domestic violence cases to DCFS

Our goal: Stop punishing survivors of domestic violence with charges of “failure to protect” that result in harmful separation of families

The issue:

State law (CANRA) does not require domestic violence to be report, but current LASD policy is to report all families with minor children to DCFS when responding to a domestic violence call

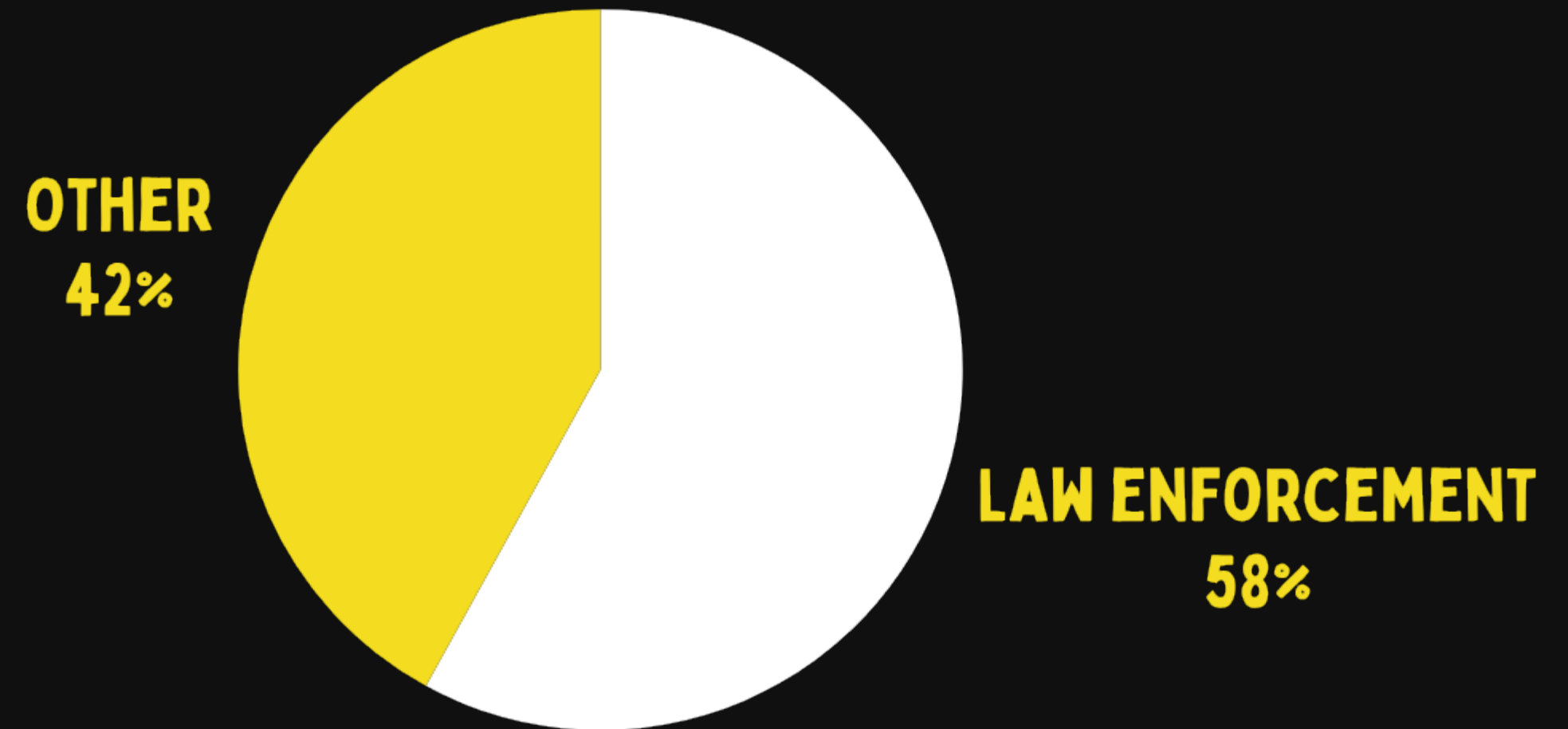


Our ask:

The BOS has the power to change LASD policy and limit referrals of domestic violence cases to DCFS to instances where a child has been physically abused

58% OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
REFERRALS TO DCFS CAME
FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT
IN 2024

los angeles County
sheriff referred 7,688
children “exposed” to
domestic violence to
dcfs in 2024



Current initiative #2: Ensuring that county policies on Informed Consent for Drug Testing Pregnant People applies to pediatricians

Our goal: End racially discriminatory practices in drug testing pregnant people and their babies

The issue:

LA County's Department of Health Services [policies](#) require OB/GYNs to have a medical indication AND informed consent before drug testing pregnant people, but it is unclear whether this policy applies to pediatricians drug testing babies.



Our ask:

The BOS and other county departments can encourage DHS to clarify that the policy also applies to pediatricians.

Current initiative #3: Fully Funding pre-petition legal services

Our goal: Ensure that all LA County families who are investigated by DCFS have access to legal counsel and support

The issue:

In May 2025, county launched a pre-petition legal services pilot, which is only funded through September. Currently, the pilot only exists in SPA 6.



Our ask:

The BOS can allocate funds to expand the pilot countywide, starting in the Antelope Valley.

THANK YOU!



Get Involved!
Check Out Our Policy
Demands



Website: reimaginechildsafety.org

Questions? Email: reimaginechildsafety@gmail.com