



MEMORANDUM

To: DCF All Staff

From: Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes

Date: 5/25/2020

Re: Update on Department Operations and
Commissioner Weekly Video

Veterans who served our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms are remembered today. Memorial Day takes on greater meaning this year with the stress and strain of the pandemic. As we pause in memory of fallen soldiers, we are also in solemn appreciation to the veterans who may have survived war but have lost the Coronavirus battle. May they Rest In Peace.

Adolescents in care inspired us on Wednesday during a **Youth Advisory Board Virtual Town Hall**. They are insightful, funny and resilient with genuine ideas on how they can be supported both during the pandemic and beyond. Thanks to all who prepared the youth for this event. The opportunity to celebrate achievements such as graduations has also been impeded. Guidelines will be provided regarding personal celebration experiences we are asking staff to establish as youth on our caseloads move through these exciting periods in their lives.

Since March, the Department has provided guidance for telework assessments and engagement with families. All of this and additional information has been collected into a comprehensive document. Please review this guidance on virtual visitation, supervision and finding helpful resources here: [DCF Guidance for Virtual Assessments During COVID-19](#)

Resuming full operations is an evolving process. This past Tuesday, the co-chairs of the 4 subcommittees provided initial recommendations to the Department's Senior leadership. We are appreciative of this work and the over 200 staff who either participated in these workgroups or provided information to our dedicated COVID-19 mailbox. Simultaneously, we are speaking with community partners to get their feedback. Input from stakeholders aides our "reopening" work.

We commit to clear and consistent communication regarding our planning efforts. As such, please view this weekly video for usual updates: [Commissioner's Weekly Video 5-25-20](#)

Have a wonderful unofficial start to the summer... whatever that looks like this year. Stay vigilant.