



November 30, 2020

Dear ICAN Colleagues,

Season's greetings to you, your friends and families!

This holiday season is different. We're experiencing limits on extended family gatherings, office parties, potlucks, travel, movie theatres, restaurants. We'll get through this, knowing that if we pay attention to the Public Health advisories, we could be celebrating the holidays together again next year.

We send our admiration and gratitude again to the heroic frontline workers and to Dr. Barbara Ferrer, DPH Director, for her intrepid leadership in guiding us through the trials of this pandemic.

And, the Vaccine is on its way!

With all this, we realize this winter cold will bring more suffering to the homeless, and more challenges to families already experiencing financial stress, anxiety and isolation. And so, we continue with our commitment to reach vulnerable families, to prevent harm and promote the joy and laughter of children, especially in these challenging times.

**New Projects:**

We're winding up our 17- part Video Training series on lessons learned from Child Death Review, featuring locally and nationally recognized experts. The series will be featured on the ICAN Website and the County's LearningNet.

Our ICAN "No-Hit" Campaign pilot, led by Dr. Carol Berkowitz, is launching at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. Brochures and Posters are printed!

The ICAN Associates' YouTube celebration of the Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art contest winners is almost ready for release! Many thanks again to Beverly Kurtz and Sabina Alvarez, Poster Art Contest Co-Chairs. We're so grateful to Lindsay Wagner, ICAN Associates



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Chairperson, and Magnifydigital for making this amazing production possible! It features the Board of Supervisors Chair, DCFS Director, LACOE Superintendent, Celebrities, and the winning Poster Art contest students. It also will include an inspirational song written for ICAN by Billie Steinberg and Annie Bosko, performed by Annie!

## **Committees:**

ICAN committees are meeting virtually. Our ICAN Operations Committee is meeting bi-monthly, with our first virtual meeting featuring multi-agency news and a captivating presentation by Dr. Clayton Kazan on the depth, breath and realities of COVID-19. Our next virtual Operations meeting will be December 9th, with a special presentation from our Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Jonathan Lucas.

See: [www.ican4kids.org](http://www.ican4kids.org) for other ICAN committees and projects.

## **Updates:**

ICAN staff are primarily working remotely, with daily secretarial office coverage. Fortunately, everyone is safe and healthy, and our projects have moved forward. Our conferences are on hold, but we're planning for virtual events

ICAN's report on the State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County is at the printers, as are the reports on Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infants and the 2019 Report of the ICAN Child Death Review Team. Our groundbreaking 30-Year Special Report on Child Abuse Homicides is almost completed - a daunting effort. Recommendations based on over 1,000 cases reviewed by ICAN's Child Death Review Team will be released with the report.

We've partnered with the Domestic Violence Council and DCFS in addressing the complex issues related to domestic violence victims and children in violent homes. And, the GERDA (Guidelines for Effective Response to Domestic Abuse) Training project is being tested for release, an extraordinary effort spanning over 15 years.

The ICAN Hospital Network is working to connect 64 hospitals that bring us 90% of infant and toddler injuries and 95% of all births in LA



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County. The project focuses on high-risk pregnancies, newborns, infants, and toddlers. Supported by a private grant, the Network will be shared nationally to connect with counterparts.

Our work to fund specialized programs through AB 2994 continues and we are close to implementing two new specialized programs: a recruitment and retention program for resource parents and a unique school-based education and prevention program on family violence for public middle and high school students.

The Infant Safe Sleep campaign is currently providing zoom presentations to community agencies and hospital programs serving first time parents and parents with young children.

Revisions to ICAN's [www.safesleepforbaby.com](http://www.safesleepforbaby.com) website are in process and will be available to view on the [ICAN4KIDS.org](http://ICAN4KIDS.org) website once completed. It will include updated safe sleep resources such as: downloadable brochures ready for print, the safe sleep toolkit, access to the safe sleep training, and updated posters. This site will also include web forms to allow brochure orders online.

## **Director's Note:**

I've been privileged to serve on the First5LA Children and Families Commission since it was created over 20 years ago. Because the Commission's funding base of tobacco tax dollars has steadily declined (good health news), the Commission has restructured to strategically address Systems and Policy. The focus of First5 on the prenatal and early years of a child's life impacts the most vulnerable of our county's children, as identified in ICAN's 30-year report on child fatalities. Please check the First5LA website.

As you all know, the election brought significant changes at the national and local levels. At this point, I want to sincerely thank DA Jackie Lacey for her 8 years of consistent and passionate support of ICAN as Co-Chair of the Policy Committee. She never missed an ICAN event, conference, report release, or celebration of children. I'll never forget standing in Center Field at Dodger Stadium with Jackie as we declared Child Abuse Prevention Month and launched our ICAN No Hitter campaign with Joe Torre and the Dodgers.





Very sad news came with the passing of our longtime friend Alex Trebek, 2018 ICAN Champion. He and Elaine Trebek- Kares co-founded our enduring partnership with ICAN Associates. Alex left the world a better place, inspired and enlightened.

Rest in Peace, Alex.



*Alex Trebek, ICAN Champion and ICAN Associates Co-Founder  
Mark Macabe, ICAN Ambassador*

I'll end this message with a link from the Children's AME choir, led by Arvis Jones, our ICAN colleague and award recipient. Listen and smile.



Children's AME choir, led by Arvis Jones

With appreciation for your commitment to the safety and joy of children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deanne Tilton-Durfee".

Deanne Tilton-Durfee, Doc.hc Executive Director of the  
Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect