



January 29, 2025

*Dear ICAN Friends and partners,*

*The year 2025 arrived with a fury. Wildfires raged with relentless disregard for the lives they would change forever. Loved ones, homes and precious memories were lost within hours of the first sparks that ignited hillsides and neighborhoods. With this message, I send heartfelt sympathy to those caught in the cruel windblown pathway of the fires, and profound admiration for the heroes who placed their own lives at risk to save them. Heroes continue to appear as volunteers step forward with food, clothing and open doors. And special appreciation to the individuals and agencies now reaching out to support traumatized children and families.*

*As we move forward into the New Year, I'm filled with hope and gratitude for the unwavering dedication and collaboration of our ICAN network. For sure, we're making a lasting impact as we continue our efforts to prevent harm to children and reaffirm our shared commitment to their safety, well-being, and joy.*

## ICAN Nexus Conference- Violence Within the Home and Its Effects on Children

The 27th Annual ICAN/ICAN Associates Nexus conference held at the Sheraton Universal on October 10, 2024, was a resounding success. With over 450 in attendance, which included participants from DCFS, DMH, DPH, DPSS, the District Attorney's Office, and community providers, it showcased the importance of inter-agency collaboration in addressing the challenges of family violence and its impact on children.





Presentations by dynamic speakers, family and community advocate Dr. Alan-Michael Graves (top left), mother turned child advocate, Ana Estevez (top right), social activist, Azim Khamisa (bottom left), and forensic pediatric expert, Dr. Sharon Cooper (bottom right) captivated the audience addressing issues of child maltreatment, domestic violence and transformational healing. The energy and dedication in the room were truly inspiring.



Powerful welcoming remarks from Los Angeles County leaders, including Supervisor Lindsay Horvath (top left), Director of Health Services, Dr. Christina Ghaly (top right), Director of Public Health, Dr. Barbara Ferrer (bottom left), and First 5 Executive Director, Karla Pleitez Howell (bottom right) emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in creating safer environments for children.





Awards were presented to Dr. Barbara Ferrer for the Champion for Children award, Justin and Keisha Chambers for the Angelo Award, and Dr. Michael Durfee for ICAN's Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Safe Sleep Pilot Program**

ICAN has partnered with DHS, DPH, and DCFS on a pilot program beginning at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center and expanding to Harbor/UCLA and LA Medical Center, to address safe sleep environments for newborns. This initiative ensures that every child born at a county hospital without access to a safe sleep environment receives a crib, reducing the risks associated with unsafe sleep practices. It is a testament to our ability to identify critical gaps and act swiftly to meet families' needs.

For a Complete overview of ICAN's work, join our ICAN Operations Committee that meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact Sabina Alvarez for more information at [alvars@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:alvars@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

For an update on other ICAN Committees and projects, please visit [www.ican4kids.org](http://www.ican4kids.org) and follow us on Facebook.

### **Upcoming ICAN 2025 Events**

**ICAN Policy Committee Meeting and release of Annual reports**

**Location:** The Music Center, DTLA

**Time:** 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

This meeting will focus on ICAN annual policy recommendations to address child abuse and neglect

## **ICAN/ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art Contest**

**April, 2025**

## **ICAN 19th Annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference**

**Date:** June 10, 2025

**Location:** The California Endowment

**Time:** 8:30am to 4:00pm

**[Submit a workshop by clicking here!](#)**

## **ICAN Nexus Conference: Violence Within the Home and Its Effects on Children**

**Date:** October 29, 2025

**Location:** Sheraton Universal

**Time:** 8:00am to 4:30pm

***Next month's ICAN newsletter will come to you from Edie Shulman.***

***After nearly three decades with ICAN, our amazing Assistant Director is retiring February 28th.***

***Her talent and accomplishments during her service with ICAN have been extraordinary, reflecting and surpassing her credentials as a Social Worker and Attorney.***

***and guided through ICAN's complex and challenging efforts to improve our child protection system. For sure, she will continue as a valued member of the ICAN Family.***

***Again, thank you all for your ongoing commitment to children's safety and well-being.***



***Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc. Hc***

***Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)***

***“Safety and security don’t just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”***

*Nelson Mandela*

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*<https://www.ican4kids.org>*

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