

Media Advisory

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Contact: Richard Cohen
310.390-0551

Sharon Appel
323.980.1589

LOS ANGELES CHILD ADVOCATES SEEK TO ASSIST DEPENDENT TEENS AND THEIR BABIES

*First-ever convening aims to break the cycle of foster care and strengthen
the parenting ability of dependent adolescent mothers*

- WHAT:** **Fostering the Bond: Dependent Teens and Their Babies**, a groundbreaking Los Angeles summit to be held in conjunction with the May Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign, will bring together child advocates, policy makers, service providers, and funders to work together on innovative, system-changing approaches to creating healthy, stable families for foster and recently emancipated teens with young children.
- WHY:** California's rate of teen pregnancy is 21% higher than the national average, ranking it among the worst in the nation. According to the Los Angeles Children's Planning Council, there were over 6,000 teen births in Los Angeles County in the year 2000. One recent study of adolescents age 17 years and older in foster care found that 32% of the young women studied were pregnant or parenting.
- WHO:** Featured Speakers include: **California State Senator Sheila Kuehl**
Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke
Barry Zuckerman MD, Chief of Pediatrics, Boston Medical School and the Boston University School of Medicine
Los Angeles Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash
Department of Children and Family Services Director Dr. David Sanders
- WHEN:** Friday, May 7, 2004
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- WHERE:** Westside Children's Center
12120 Wagner Street
Culver City, CA
- SPONSORS:** Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
Westside Children's Center
The California Endowment

