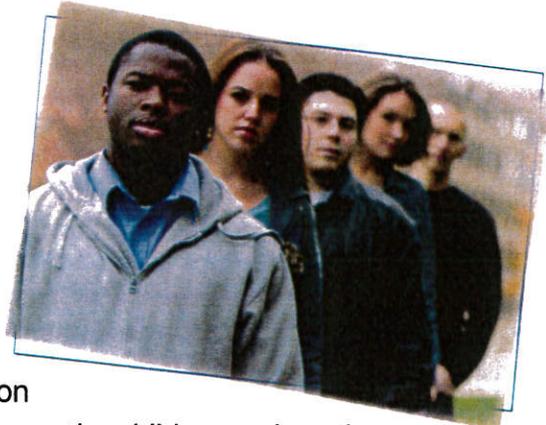
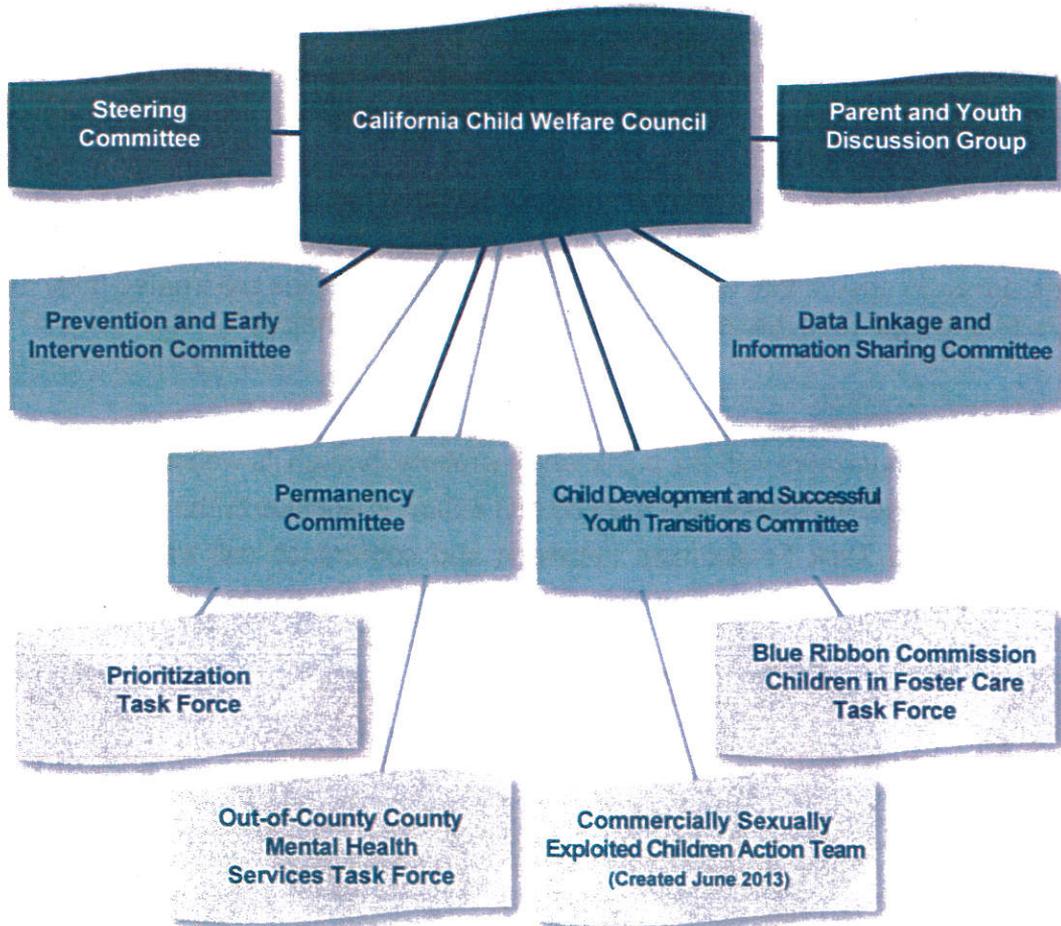


The California Child Welfare Council



The Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 (AB 2216, Chapter 384) established the California Child Welfare Council (Council), to serve as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children and youth in the child welfare and foster care systems. Charged with monitoring and reporting the extent to which child welfare and foster care programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care, the Council can issue advisory reports whenever it deems appropriate, and is required to report at least annually to the Governor, the Legislature, the Judicial Council and the public. Co-chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the designee of the Chief Justice of California, the Council has met quarterly since November, 2007.

Structure of the California Child Welfare Council



Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles

VISION

Every California child lives in a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families with the capacity to meet the child's needs and support the child's well-being, and is prepared for the transition into adulthood and becoming a contributing member of society.

MISSION

We provide an effective, collaborative forum for the three branches of government, foster youth and their families, and key stakeholders to advocate for effective and promising strategies and adequate resources to improve outcomes for children, youth and families involved with or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Collaboration is essential among the three branches of government, foster youth and their families and key stakeholders to achieving improved outcomes for children, youth and families.
2. Accountability for child, youth and family outcomes is shared between federal, state, and local governments and among multiple agencies, the courts, community partners, families, and youth.
3. Engaging families and youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of services, programs, and policies is essential to achieving improved system outcomes.
4. Sharing data and information across governmental jurisdictions, agencies and the courts promotes more informed program planning, development and evaluation. At the local level, it enables the linkage of children, youth and families to appropriate community services and supports.
5. Best and promising practices should be replicated statewide where appropriate and possible.
6. Maximizing and using multiple funding sources flexibly across systems provides resources needed to meet the comprehensive and complex needs of children, youth and their families.
7. Recommendations will be culturally appropriate, strength-based, evidence-informed, and outcomes-driven to ensure that all children, youth and their families are treated fairly and equally without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

Communications

The Council primarily communicates with the public and members through its website (www.chhs.ca.gov/initiatives/CACChildWelfareCouncil/) and e-mail, in addition to the quarterly Council meetings. Committees and Task Forces hold in-person and conference call meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

