



California Child Welfare Council

California Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel

March 2016 Report

The Power of Community



- The Prevention and Early Intervention Committee identifies and promotes services and support systems that prevent the need for families to enter the child welfare system. The responsibility of a Citizen Review Panel, mandated under federal law, has been incorporated into the Committee, and serves in a statewide capacity as one of California's three panels.
- Since taking on the responsibilities of the statewide Citizen Review Panel, the Council's Prevention and Early Intervention Committee has focused on a review of policies and systems that are needed to not only facilitate *prevention* of child abuse and neglect, but also *promotion* of health and well-being for all children and families.
- **The Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel's efforts to date have focused on two broad areas: quality and uniformity of prevention practice statewide, and on resourcing/financing prevention.**
- Last year we focused on (1) the development and dissemination of a toolkit on federal child welfare financing to better inform partners of issues and opportunities related to reform; and (2) expanded thinking on the benefit of a uniform statewide Prevention Framework.
- This year we are continuing our work towards making a set of recommendations to support more uniform prevention practice. To that end we have developed a cross-walk of the core elements of major prevention platforms being implemented in California counties. Also, we are looking at the cost of prevention through the lens of Haddon's matrix, a public health model that focuses on health and wellness for all children and families.
- The *Toolkit on Federal Reform of Child Welfare Financing* has been widely disseminated throughout California and to child welfare leadership in several additional states. It is particularly timely and relevant now with the introduction of a child welfare legislative proposal titled the "Family First Act," by Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.
- Staff for both Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden have expressed their interest in bringing this legislative proposal before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance for its consideration in 2016 as part of a Committee markup session. As currently outlined, the legislative proposal would have two sections – one to provide funding for prevention services as well as other legislative changes, and one to outline federal policy around placement setting for children in foster care.