

California Child Welfare Council Steering Committee

On March 4, 2015, the California Child Welfare Council approved revisions to the Operations Manual that included provisions regarding the role, time commitment, and selection of Council members to serve on the Steering Committee, as follows:

Steering Committee Role

- Provide Council staff with ongoing assessment of the work of the Council and its Committees and Task Forces.
- Give guidance to Council staff regarding Council agendas prior to approval by Council Co-Chairs.
- Advise Council staff regarding Council membership to promote active participation.

Steering Committee Time Commitment

- Effective July 2015, Steering Committee term of membership will be two years.
- One-hour conference calls to be held quarterly, one month in advance of each Council meeting.
- Ad hoc conference calls to be scheduled as needed.

Steering Committee Representation

Steering Committee members are to be appointed by the Council's Co-Chairs and include representation from the following array of stakeholders who comprise the membership of the Council: former foster youth, parent, foster parent, tribal member, nonprofit provider of service, nonprofit advocate, county child welfare, county behavioral health, juvenile court judge, state mental health, and state child welfare.

Steering Committee Appointments

Council members wishing to serve on the Steering Committee were given the opportunity to apply, and on April 29, 2015, the Council Co-Chairs, Secretary Diana Dooley and Justice Vance Raye, appointed the following members to serve:

Former foster youth

Vanessa Hernandez, Legislative Coordinator
California Youth Connection

Parent

Leah Davis, Parent Leader
California State Parent Team

Foster parent

Cheryl Rave, Crave Productions
Foster – Adopt parent

Tribal member

Hon. Claudette White, Judge, Quechan Court
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

Nonprofit provider of services

Ken Berrick, Founder, President and CEO
Seneca Family of Agencies

Nonprofit advocate

Patrick Gardner, Founder and President
Young Minds Advocacy Project

County child welfare

Lori Cox, Director
Alameda County Social Services Agency

County behavioral health

Terry Rooney, Ph.D., Director
Colusa County Behavioral Health Services

Juvenile Court Judge

Hon. Shawna Schwarz, Judge
Santa Clara County Juvenile Court

State mental health

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., Deputy Director for Mental
Health & Substance Use Disorder Services

State child welfare

Will Lightbourne, Director
California Department of Social Services