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We are pleased to release the July 2011 California Child Welfare Council report pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16540. The Council is an advisory body that is responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of multiple agencies and courts that serve children and youth in the child welfare system. The Council is required to monitor and report to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council and the public the extent to which child welfare programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care.

Established by the Child Welfare and Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006, the Council's formative years focused on establishing and implementing a conceptual and operational framework, including a committee structure that proactively looks at key child welfare issues, and the creation of task forces to analyze and report on how entrenched problems might be addressed. The report includes information regarding the work plans and products of each committee and task force; an evaluation of the Council's accomplishments and challenges; and a description of future directions for improving collaboration across systems for the purpose of continually improving services to families and children.

We welcome comments from the public at any time. More information about the Council and the meeting schedule may be found at <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/initiatives/CACChildWelfareCouncil/>, and you may contact the Council at CWCouncil@chhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Diana S. Dooley in black ink.

Diana S. Dooley
Child Welfare Council Co-Chair
Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency

Handwritten signature of Vance W. Raye in black ink.

Vance Raye
Child Welfare Council Co-Chair
Presiding Justice
Third District Court of Appeal