



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**, will feature highlights on the work of the Council and its committees. Please use this template to write your committee report and submit it to Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov no later than **October 3, 2024**.

Readers may not be familiar with acronyms and abbreviations. Please fully write out acronyms and abbreviations the first time you use them and be consistent in using the same acronym or abbreviation throughout the rest of the report.

Readers may not be familiar with policies, organizations, or programs that are well known to your committee. Please consider including brief explanations so readers can better understand your report.

July 2023 through June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Concerns or Challenges: Describe any issues that you feel need the Council’s attention in order to maximize opportunities to address barriers to the work of the Council.

2024 – 2025 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	Empowerment Committee
Purpose	<p>The Empowerment Committee is committed to ensuring that our work addresses the holistic needs of children and youth in the child welfare system, with a special focus on their health, mental health, educational, and social development. We recognize that young people must be at the center of this work. To that end, the Empowerment Committee will continue to explore ways to support youth and young adults in grounding and broadening their understanding of the council and its subcommittees, ensuring they have the support necessary to actively engage in these spaces.</p> <p>We will work diligently to explore critical issues impacting children and youth, from early childhood through the transition to adulthood. By gathering information on effective policies and practices across jurisdictions, we will make recommendations on replicating these successes for broader implementation. Our goal is to address the unique challenges facing youth in the child welfare system and create sustainable pathways for their well-being and success.</p>

July 2023 through June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments	<p>We held four meetings from July 2023 through June 2024. Attendance increased, presentations with lived experience expertise were provided, and our leadership continued to access the Child Welfare Council (CWC) environment to develop recommendations and a plan for youth leadership development, integration, and succession.</p>
Concerns or Challenges	<p>The Empowerment Committee relies on in-kind resources, which limits its capacity. Additionally, through our assessment of CWC, we found that agencies like education (K-12, California Community Colleges, California State Universities, Universities of California) and the workforce need to be at the table and integrated into this space so that youth have an environment to reach their full potential and thrive.</p>
2024 - 2025 Goals/Objectives	<p>Assess and seek council and department leadership to engage youth with leadership opportunities that support the success of council goals, strengthen relationships, and empower youth to pursue service and career pathways into human service to meet the needs of system-involved youth in public policy, social services, behavioral health, peer-to-peer, and other workforce opportunities.</p>