



# 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](mailto: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.

<b>Committee/ Task Force Name</b>	Permanency Committee
<b>Purpose</b>	Identify and remove barriers, along with recommending best practices to achieve speedy permanency for all children in out of home care.
<b>July 2023 through June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments</b>	Highlights during this term include presentations from Los Angeles County on their successful front end family finding work; a report from San Diego County on their system alignment work to become a more kin first culture; and a conversation with Mark Courtney re: the updates in the Cal Youth study. We held repeated discussions with the California Department of Social Services (acronym CDSS) as to the work with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support; and more specifically how to continue to improve the inclusion of children youth and their kin in Child and Family Team meetings and work to meet department standards and fulfill its obligation with the court. There has also been discussion about misinformation regarding kin caregivers and adoption across the state, and how to address this misinformation.

<p><b>Concerns or Challenges</b></p>	<p>Each of our meetings is interactive with strong presentations, challenging questions and fresh ideas. However, we have not been able to regrow the size of the group on a consistent basis and do not really have the capacity for off-line, between sessions work. While there has been some improvement in attendance at child and family team meetings, this concern was brought to the council in 2016, and we have made little progress in solving this issue. As Bob has noted to Sarah, I do think it is time for the Council to consider appointing a new co-chair, especially one with lived experience. This can be a developmental opportunity for someone to learn and receive mentoring. Bob’s steering committee term will end in June 2025, and he anticipates exiting from the Council membership by 2027.</p>
<p><b>2024 - 2025 Goals/Objectives</b></p>	<p>Continue to support the development of the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support, and provide counsel and recommendations as needed.</p> <p>Stay abreast of statewide efforts to establish a kin-first, family-centered practice model.</p> <p>Grow, and report on, efforts to establish systemic alignment in counties as a critical and necessary step towards the culture development into a kin-first, family-centered system that is sustainable.</p> <p>Continue to push for more family inclusion in Child and Family Team meetings, given the less than satisfactory results of CDSS data. Create a more consistent dialogue with CDSS re: improvements that can be made in practice to welcome families to Child and Family team meetings, and ensure those meetings actively involve family voices into all plans and decisions affecting their kin.</p>