



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**, 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 **February 13, 2026**.

Members of the Legislature and the public 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 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 2024-25.

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.

2025 – 2026 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	Data Linkages and Information Sharing Committee (DLIS)
Purpose	The DLIS supports the efforts of other Child Welfare Council committees, and of public child welfare toward integrating information across child-serving agencies (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, health care services, education, etc.). The goal of these cross-system data is to better inform policy and practice at the individual and systems levels. The DLIS also supports development of tools that measure outcomes across systems at the state and local levels. This information is critical for guiding continuous quality improvements in child welfare services that adapt to the multiple and changing needs of children, families and caregivers.
July 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments	Supported cross-system data initiatives, including work on substance use disorder (SUD) data collection improvements and analysis of risk factors within child welfare cases. Discussed integration of data across systems such as behavioral health, eligibility systems like California Statewide Automated Welfare System

	<p>(CalSAWS), and assessment tools like CANS to support more holistic tracking.</p> <p>Focused committee efforts toward providing updates and technical guidance related to development and implementation of the California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES), including pilot planning, testing cycles, and data infrastructure design.</p> <p>Reviewed Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST 2), which generated extensive user feedback and helped identify new functional requirements to strengthen system usability.</p> <p>Provided input on CWS-CARES data access, reporting preparation, and coordination with reporting partners including the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) and Evident Change.</p> <p>Continued participation in collaborative workgroups and discussions to improve data synchronization, data dictionaries, and reporting infrastructure across counties.</p>
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<p>Ensuring timely access to CWS-CARES data for reporting partners in order to prepare for statewide rollout and ongoing reporting requirements. Data synchronization challenges between legacy systems (CWS/CMS) and CWS-CARES during the transition period.</p> <p>Gaps in structured data fields, including concerns regarding substance use disorder indicators and demographic data consistency.</p> <p>Variability in county capacity and readiness to implement integrated data practices and pilot processes.</p>
<p>2025 - 2026 Goals/Objectives</p>	<p>Monitor and provide updates on issues related to the development, and launch of the California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES).</p> <p>Support creation of data reporting methodologies and guidance for statewide partners and counties as the new system launches.</p> <p>Explore ways to strengthen cross-system data linkages with education, health, and behavioral health partners.</p> <p>Report to the Data Committee and to the Council on findings and implications of the work of the Children’s Crisis Continuum Program Pilot evaluation (CCCPP), and the Guaranteed Income Pilot Project (GIPP) evaluation that are being carried out by CDSS, the Urban Institute, and the CCWIP Transition Age Youth Research and Evaluation Hub at UC Berkeley.</p>

	Promote use of integrated data to inform policy decisions, program improvement, and equity efforts.
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