



# 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](mailto: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.

<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 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments</b>	Highlights during this term include presentations during committee meetings by Co-Chair Len Edwards on a very successful mentoring/tutoring program with high school students in Santa Clara County; a Statewide Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) update by their Chief Executive Officer Sharon Lawrence which showed the impact and effectiveness of CASA programs; and a presentation by San Diego County on their alignment work between the Courts and system partners to work together and prioritize serving families to improve engagement and involvement in plans and decision making. We held repeated discussions with California Department of Social Services (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

	<p>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 have also been multiple presentations and discussions with CDSS that have focused on family engagement and inclusion into all decision making practices to conform with state requirements for Child and Family Teaming, as well as updates regarding new policies and communication regarding Child and Family Teams work, including the increasing emphasis of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths, known by its acronym, CANS .</p>
<p><b>Concerns or Challenges</b></p>	<p>We were unable to hold the June 2025 committee meeting due to a scheduling conflict. While the passions remain strong for permanency, the topic continues to be notably absent from most of the CWC full meetings. In anticipation of Judge Edwards’ eventual exit from the council and Bob Friend’s planned exit at the end of this term in Dec 2026, Bob was asked to find another candidate for the position. While this committee was initially focused on young people exiting the system and their permanence, the primary focus of the Transition to Adulthood Committee was on those youth, so the Permanency Committee partnered with them when requested. When the Committee folded, the emphasis lapsed. We believe the Permanency Committee should re-ignite the focus on young people exiting the system and to really focus on the extent of their relationships and networks, the aspect of thriving in adulthood most unattended by programs supporting those youth yet most essential to their health and well-being.</p>
<p><b>2025 - 2026 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. Advocate for data collection and outcome measures on the Kin-first 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. This includes the discernment and distinction between placement versus permanency as it relates to family finding.</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>

	<p>Rekindle focus on youth exiting the system to ensure they have permanency via a network of support.</p>
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