

Child Welfare Council

September 9, 2026



State of California
Child Welfare Council





Housekeeping Items

- **Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act:**
Per the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, CWC Members who are participating remotely must be visible on camera during the open portion of the meeting, unless it is technologically impracticable to do so. If you are unable to be on camera, please indicate so in the Zoom chat.
- Council Members attending via Zoom – Please **rename** yourself as follows: First Last – Member (i.e., Jane Smith – Member)
- Please **remain on mute** when not presenting or planning to speak.



Options for Member Comments



In person

- Members **participating in person**, seek recognition of the Co-Chairs by raising your hand and wait for the microphone before speaking

Virtual

- Members **participating virtually**, “Raise Hand”

Options for Public Comment



In person

- Members of the public **participating in person** may seek to make comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting by letting one of the meeting staff know

Virtual

- Members of the public **participating virtually** should raise their hand in Zoom if they want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting

Call to Order

Justice Stacy Boulware Eurie, Co-Chair

Secretary Kim Johnson, Co-Chair



Child Welfare Council Meeting





ANNOUNCEMENTS



PUBLIC COMMENT

Options for Public Comment (b)



In person

- Members of the public **participating in person** may seek to make comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting by letting one of the meeting staff know

Virtual

- Members of the public **participating virtually** should raise their hand in Zoom if they want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red shirt and blue overalls, is holding a red toy airplane above their head with both hands. The child is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a play area with colorful toys.

CalHHS Update

Budget & Legislative Update

Secretary Kim Johnson, Co-Chair

Committee & Task Force Updates

- Permanency Committee: Bob Friend & Amanda McKinney
- Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee: Dr. Daniel Webster
- Behavioral Health Committee: Karen Larsen & Pete Weldy
- Prevention and Early Intervention Committee: Kathryn Icenhower & Dana Blackwell



Committee & Task Force Updates (cont.)

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Action Team: Leslie Heimov & Kate Walker Brown
- Empowerment Committee: Jevon Wilkes
- Youth Justice Committee: Hon. Katherine Lucero (Ret.)





Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Child Welfare Council Update: Youth Justice Committee

September 9, 2026



Youth Justice Committee Updates

- **Diversion Priority Area**
 - YJC is hosting a Diversion Panel at OYCR's Youth Justice Summit in San Diego which will take place on October 7, 12:15-1:45.
 - The session will feature system leaders and community practitioners who are creating opportunities for diversion throughout the state and across different touchpoints within their local youth justice systems.
 - Panelists will highlight a range of diversion opportunities that reflect their communities' unique populations and leverage local partnerships.



Youth Justice Committee Updates (cont.)

- **Data Priority Area**
 - In December, members will discuss analysis of publicly available data submitted by counties related to SYTF youth (including JJRBG reports) to better understand key indicators and potential areas of focus for further inquiry.
 - The committee is also learning more about existing research and evaluation efforts counties are engaged in that are producing insights on outcomes for SYTF youth.

California Juvenile Justice Realignment Block
Grant County Plan Summary Report - 2025



INFORMATION ITEM

MANDATED REPORTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MRAC) UPDATE

Kathryn Icenhower and Dana Blackwell
PEI Co-Chairs



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

QUARTERLY UPDATE: Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee

Child Welfare Council Meeting

September 9, 2026



The MRAC is not simply a committee tasked with carrying out recommendations.

It is a statutorily mandated body with a clear charge: ensure California's shift from mandated reporting to community supporting moves forward, and that it drives the measurable elimination of disparities in the child welfare system.

Continuing to Build Awareness & Momentum

- **Narrative Shift (Rec 14) Activities Since**

June Update:

- **California:**
 - Partnership for Wellbeing Conference, June 2026
 - EMPOWER Summit for Community Schools, September 2026
 - National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter, October 2026
- **External communications support** secured by Casey Family Programs



Implementation Highlights & What's Next



Key Levers of Implementation: The Recommendations are each connected to a key lever of change to focus the implementation strategy

Shared Framework: To organize development of the implementation plan, the MRAC established a shared framework that articulates the deliverables for each recommendation, guides the identification of key activities, and highlights productive intersections across Workgroups

- Data and Accountability
- Policy
- Training
- Connecting to a Community Pathway of Supports and Services
- Narrative Shift

Implementation Highlights Since June



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Data and Accountability

- CDSS and MRAC met to discuss key metrics of the reform work and how to publicly post progress (Rec 2)

Narrative Shift

- Elevator Speech approved for use (Rec 14)
- Community Voices Hub approved for use (Rec 14)

Community Pathways – Building and Connecting

- Advanced to CDSS the suggested education and information for inclusion in CPPs (Rec 12)
- Working with CDSS and the FFPS Community Pathway Committee on a process for CQI review (Rec 11)
- Working with Citizen Review Panel (CRP) and CDSS to examine CRP responses for additional reform actions (Rec 11)

Training

- AB 2085 Statewide training completed and will be incorporated in Gold Standard Statewide train (Rec 3)
- Mandated Reporter Statewide training implementation plan completed and will be presented to the MRAC in October, with anticipated launch in December 2026 (Rec 9)

Where Support is Needed

- The work of the Policy Workgroup is more complicated than the other recommendations being advanced. Guidance from the CWC may be needed in the future.
- The MRAC is reflecting on membership structure and what updates may be needed in terms of engagement, accountability, and length of service based on learnings to-date. The MRAC hopes to have continued support from the CWC in engaging active participation from essential and required partners.

What's Next

Significant progress that we anticipate reporting in December 2026 includes:

- Public dashboard that tracks the **agreed upon set of metrics for outcomes** related to mandated reporting reform
- Completion and **launch of the gold standard statewide mandated reporting training**
- Comprehensive **narrative shift communications plan** to further advance the work already underway, including communications and media training and coaching
- Co-created MRAC member expectations & commitments for 2027-28 engagement, and the new MRAC members

"We ask you to open your hearts and be bold, not only to the Recommendations, but by inviting more persons with lived expertise to join the tables where decisions are made." ~ Lived Experience Group of the MRCS Task Force

Q&A and Discussion



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

- What did you hear that excites you about the MRAC's work?
- What did you hear that concerns you about the MRAC's work?
- Where should the MRAC be pushing hard, and how can the CWC support?

INFORMATION ITEMS

NEW PROJECT:

TAY POPULATION AND HOMELESSNESS

Bob Friend and Amanda McKinney

Permanency Co-Chairs



IMPROVING PERMANENCY FOR TAY

Presented by: Bob Friend, Director, National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness, Seneca Family of Agencies & Amanda McKinney, MSW, Youth Program Services Coordinator, Alameda County Health Housing & Homelessness Services

Presented to: The California Child Welfare Council, September 9, 2026

PERMANENCY COMMITTEE TAY PERMANENCY PROJECT

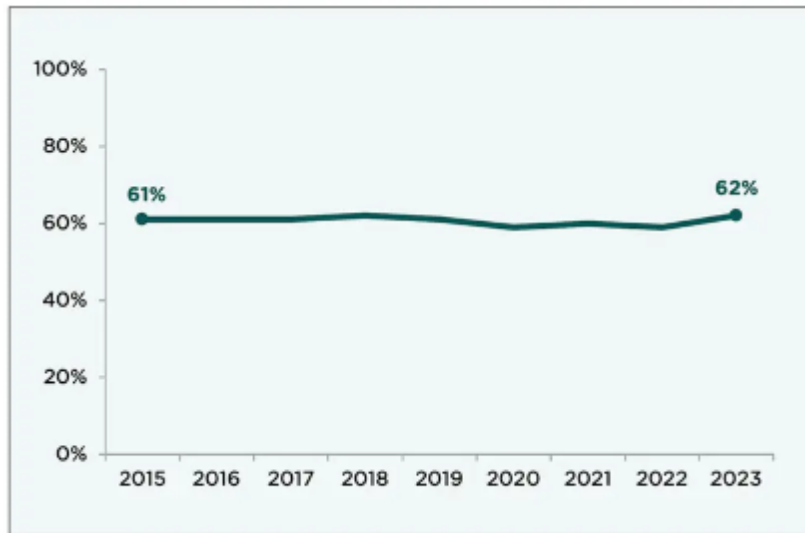
GOAL: To identify best practices, policy solutions, and measurement strategies to create and monitor progress towards meaningful permanency and relational wealth for TAY to ensure their successful transition to adulthood.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PERMANENCY FOR TAY?

- The term permanency has evolved from its initial definition of solely legal outcomes, reunification, guardianship and adoption, developed in the last century.
- In the beginning of this century, advocates and research identified that a legal permanency outcome was not necessarily permanent, and that a much larger subset of youth were isolated and homeless despite the permanency outcome.
- The term "relational permanency" became recognized and included in the federal definition of permanency, as Transition-Age youth spoke about the urgent need for an enduring network of support regardless of whether a legal outcome of permanency had been attained.
- Enduring networks of support have long been associated with better health, happiness and longevity no matter the age or population.

RATES OF PERMANENCY REMAIN LOW AMONG OLDER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

- Recent Child Trends analysis of Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data finds that only 62% of youth ages 14-21 in the United States exited foster care to legal permanency in 2023.
- For children ages 13 and under exits to legal permanency was 98%



Child Trends analysis of AFCARS data on exits to legal permanency for youth ages 14-21

California 2025 AFCARS Exits to Permanency by Age

0-10 yrs	99.5%
11-16 yrs	96.9%
17 yrs	83.5%
18+ yrs	2%

DEFINING & ACHIEVING PERMANENCY AMONG OLDER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Study published in *Child youth Services Review* in April 2018 surveyed almost 100 older youth in care, ages 14-20:

77% had an informal/relational permanency goal. Only 6.7% had achieved this goal.

Top themes from analysis of youth's identified permanency goals:

- Connecting with and supporting loved ones and strategies for maintaining connections
- Starting their own family
- Having family to support education/career goals
- Developing skills to have healthy relationships

In shifting from adoption or reunification to preparing to live independently, permanency work drops off.



25%

former foster youth who experienced homelessness after exiting care in the CaYouth Study

25%

former foster youth who experienced homelessness after exiting care in the CalYouth Study (cont.)

The odds of homelessness were **44% lower** for youth who reported that they had enough people to turn to for tangible support.

ROLE OF PERMANENCY IN DISRUPTING THE FOSTER CARE TO HOMELESSNESS PIPELINE

In 2017, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness identified **permanent connections** as one of the four federal outcomes for addressing youth homelessness, alongside stable housing, social and emotional well-being, and employment or education as the **cornerstone of the Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness**.

“Permanent Connections include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks. Connections support young people’s ability to access new ideas and opportunities that support thriving and they provide a social safety net when young people are at risk of re-entering homelessness.”

PROMOTING PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

March 2025 Children's Bureau Bulletin highlighted the need to promote both legal permanency and relational permanency for older youth in care, identifying the following strategies:

- Prioritizing Authentic Youth Engagement
 - Building trusting relationships
 - Taking a strength-based approach
- Strengthening Reunification Services
- Holistically Planning for the Transition to Adulthood
- Exploring Relational Permanency
- Understanding Youth Development and Permanency
- Helping Youth Maintain Relationships with Kin and Supporting Kin Caregivers
- Offering Guardianship as an Option
- Recruiting Nonrelative Foster and Adoptive Families to Meet Children's Specific Needs
- Focusing on Supports Before and After Permanency
- Leaning into Community and Cross-System Partnerships
- Strengthening the Workforce to Support Youth Permanency

PROMISING APPROACHES TO OLDER YOUTH PERMANENCY

- **Children's Bureau Youth At Risk of Homelessness (YARH) Demonstration Project: Thrive@25**
 - Enhanced Youth Transition Planning (E-YTP) - Family Finding coupled with youth engagement strategy (Achieve My Plan (AMP))
 - Only YARH project with an intervention embedded in local child welfare agencies
- **A Way Home Canada Family & Natural Supports (FNS) Framework** – framework for youth experiencing homelessness to find, build, and maintain meaningful relationships so they can rely less on professional supports
- **Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative's SOUL Family Framework** – framework recognizing permanency as the cornerstone to successful transition to adulthood, but that existing legal permanency options often don't work for young people. Forms an additional permanency pathway for 16+ with a primary legal relationship while maintaining legal relationships with biological family and establishing other long-term caring relationships.



By supporting youth to mediate conflicts, strengthen and rebuild relationships, and nurture natural supports, they are better able to move forward with their lives, stay in school or access training and employment, and transition successfully into adulthood.

- FNS Framework

INITIAL COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Permanency for TAY is not always about new relationships, but about repairing and rebuilding lost and severed relationships.

Strengthening social networks is a proven public health strategy that can be leveraged for TAY youth.

We must recognize the importance of chosen family, including among peers.

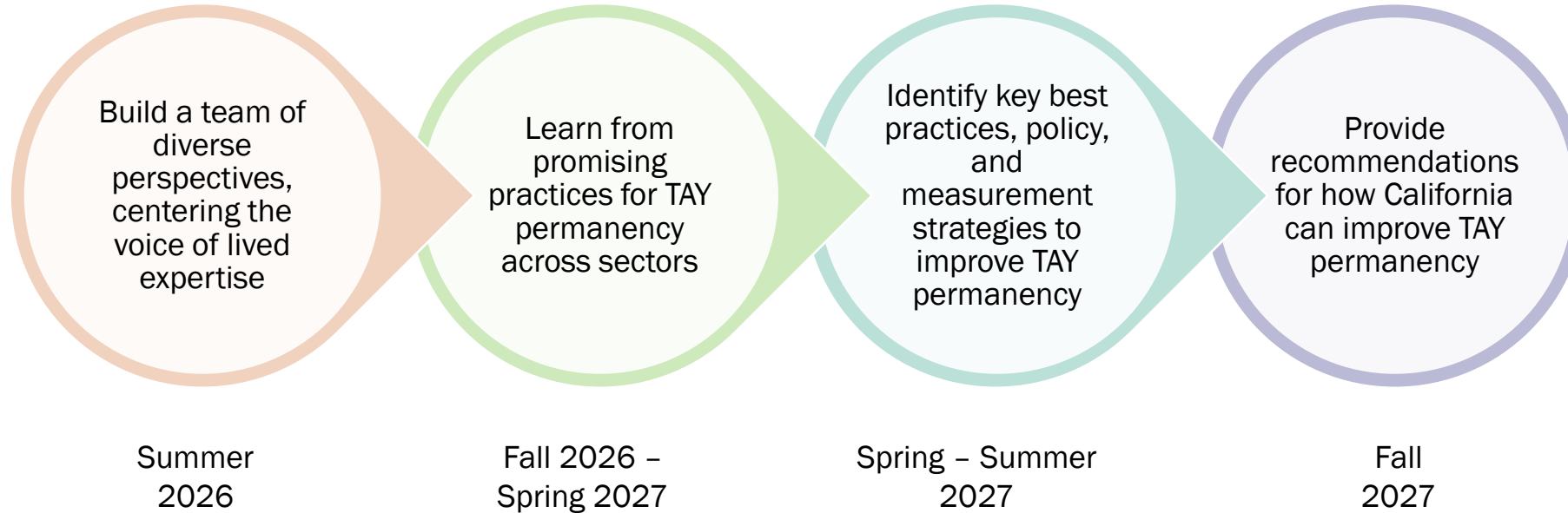
Any work to improve TAY permanency must be deeply informed by those with lived expertise.

Opportunities to support TAY permanency exist in the Tiered Rate Structure, High Fidelity Wraparound Implementation, Integrated Core Practice Model, Concurrent Planning & System of Care work

We must recognize the limitations of legal permanency for TAY.

TAY must be able to have and *know* they have a say in who is at their table.

PERMANENCY COMMITTEE TAY PERMANENCY PROJECT PLAN & TIMELINE



WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & INPUT!

- People with Lived Expertise are essential to the success of this project. Please encourage those with lived expertise to be involved.
- The issue of relational wealth impacts every committee's work—let's learn from each other.
- Please discuss how your committee can be involved.

The Permanency Committee is creating a virtual TAY Permanency Resource Repository. Please review and add resources at: [Google Drive Link](#)



**REFLECTIONS OR
CURIOSITIES?**

RESOURCES

- <https://cwig-prod-prod-drupal-s3fs-us-east-1.s3.amazonaws.com/public/documents/promoting-permanency-for-older-youth.pdf>
- <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/rates-permanency-older-youth-foster-care>
- <https://acf.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars>
- <https://cwig-prod-prod-drupal-s3fs-us-east-1.s3.amazonaws.com/public/documents/promoting-permanency-for-older-youth.pdf>
 - <https://cwig-prod-prod-drupal-s3fs-us-east-1.s3.amazonaws.com/public/documents/belonging-matters-helping-youth-explore-permanency.pdf>
 - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/conversations-relationships-engaging-teens-permanency-planning/>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5978934/>
- <https://www.chapinhall.org/research/calyouth/>
 - https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE1214-1.pdf
 - https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0516.pdf
 - https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE0518_1.pdf
 - https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE1020.pdf
- https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Child-Welfare-Brief_2019-FINAL.pdf
- <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Defining-permanent-connection-to-center-and-strengthen-informal-supports-2023.pdf>
- https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/PDF/CY_PH_IB0520.pdf
- <https://www.usich.gov/guidance-reports-data/federal-guidance-resources/federal-framework-end-youth-homelessness>
- <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Measuring-Up-Youth-Outcomes-Project-Youth-Collaboratory-Chapin-Hall-Final-v8.pdf>
- <https://cascw.umn.edu/youth-connections-scale>
- <https://achieveyourplan.pdx.edu/why-amp>
- <https://homelesshub.ca/blog/2023/what-family-and-natural-supports-fns-approach-preventing-and-ending-youth-homelessness/>
- [Homeless Hub](#)
- <https://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/YRMD-Foster-Youth-Policy-Paper.pdf>
- https://cwlibrary.childwelfare.gov/discovery/fulldisplay/alma991000313869707651/01CWIG_INST:01CWIG
- <https://www.aecf.org/blog/soul-family-permanency-option-for-older-youth-in-foster-care>
- <https://jlc.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2019-02/2018-YFCPermanencyToolkit-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf>

INFORMATION ITEM (b)

PEI PRESENTATION:

A FOCUS ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Kathryn Icenhower, Dana Blackwell,
representatives from Calaveras County,
Ohio Department of Children and Youth,
and the Integrated Human Services Group



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

PEI COMMITTEE UPDATE: A Focus on Child and Family Well-Being

Child Welfare Council Meeting

September 9, 2026

AGENDA

- Background on the PEI Well-Being Workgroup
- The Work To-Date
- Targeted Jurisdictional Learnings
 - Ohio
 - Calaveras County
- Key Themes Across Jurisdictions
- Building from a Strong Foundation: Applying the Learnings to California
- What's next

We Invite Active Listening

Discussion Points

- What do you think of when you hear “Child, Family, and Community Well-Being”?
- What did you hear that generates ideas and/or possibilities?
- Where are there concerns or points for clarification?
- Can this approach build on what California is already implementing?
- Can we identify strategies that will move our current Child, Family, and Community Well-Being work forward?



Why the PEI Committee is Leading This Work

The work is centered in the PEI Committee's Charter dated August 2020

Beliefs: We believe this is a unique moment in time to **reimagine and create a Child and Family Well-Being System** that casts a broad, comprehensive safety net to strengthen families in their own communities. As part of this process, we must address the systemic racism impacting parents, children and youth of color that has led to Black children being disproportionately represented in infant deaths, and Black, Brown and Native children being overrepresented in foster care placements, and youth and adult incarceration.

Objectives: The primary objective of the statewide PEI Committee is to advocate for needed resources, policies and practices to **achieve the promotion of child, parent and family well-being** and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



PEI Well-Being Workgroup

Purpose: To bring a focused conversation of Child, Family, and Community Well-Being to the Child Welfare Council for strategic discussion. The primary goal is to present and adopt a set of recommendations that will continue to advance Well-Being for all children and families in California.

The Process: The PEI Well-Being Workgroup has grounded its work in state and national research to inform a recommended approach for California. The process has included:

- Selection and research on 14 jurisdictions with well-being goals and focus aligned with California's efforts to date, including CA counties and other states.
- Extensive review of 7 of the 14 jurisdictions chosen based on their innovative approach, multi-system considerations, alignment with the current efforts in California and what seems to be sustainable change.

Research Focus: The Original 14 Jurisdictions

Key questions we researched

- What was the impetus for starting. For example: Community-driven, influence of a high-level gov't official, community crisis (child fatality, lawsuit), other?
- What were their goals?
- What built momentum?
- Who was key to the change?
- What was/is their definition of Well-Being?
- How permanent is the change?
- How are they leveraging and braiding funding streams? For example, what are the federal, state, and local funding streams, and how are they leveraging them?
- Do they have outcomes at this stage? If yes, what are the well-being outcomes they are measuring, and what data are they using to measure?
- Was the change legislated, or did the change create legislation?

Extensive Research on 6 Promising Jurisdictions

All 6 jurisdictions are “state supervised, county administered”

- Alleghany County, PA
- Calaveras County, CA
- Colorado
- New York City
- Ohio
- San Diego County, CA

The “Design Features” Analyzed:

- Organizational Structure: System design and when the system change was initiated; child-welfare or cross-system approach
- Primary Orientation: Prevention-focused, intervention-focused, whole-family, or system-alignment oriented
- Program Coverage: Audience served and services provided
- Coordination Method: How cross-system/department collaboration works
- Financing Approach: How financing is structured and aligned; blending and braiding; potential for sustainability.
- What is Tracked: Metrics identified; how success is determined; methods for collecting.
- Results: Early outcomes and learnings
- Critical Enablers: What and/or who made it work

Key Themes Across the Jurisdictions

Across the 7 jurisdictions studied — and especially in Ohio and Calaveras — five patterns consistently separated durable change from good intentions:

1

Governance with real authority

A cross-system leadership body — not just an advisory group — owns decisions, meets on a regular cadence, and reports up to an executive/accountable level.

2

Braided, not brand-new, funding

Existing federal, state, and local streams (Title IV-E, MHSA/BHSA, CalAIM, FFPSA) are administratively aligned around shared families, rather than seeking new appropriations.

3

Whole-family, upstream orientation

Eligibility and services are framed around child, parent, and family well-being — before crisis — rather than around a single system's intake criteria.

4

Shared metrics, public accountability

A small set of baseline-to-goal outcomes is tracked jointly and reported publicly, keeping partners honest about progress and gaps.

5

Built on relationships and what exists

No jurisdiction created new departments or programs. The work was rearranging, integrating, and building trust across the infrastructure already in place.

California Child Welfare Council Meeting

Ohio Department of Children and Youth
September 9, 2026



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR KIDS IN OHIO

- Introduction
- The Ohio Department of Children and Youth's mission is to promote lifelong outcomes for Ohio youth through early intervention, quality education, and family support programs.
- We would like to share with you today how DCY was created.



**Department of
Children & Youth**

WHY DID OHIO CREATE THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH?

Unify Fragmented Services

- Children's programs were scattered across five agencies
- Ensures consistent, coordinated service delivery

Outcome-Driven Leadership

- Governor DeWine: issues affecting children are "too important to leave scattered"
- Needed a cabinet-level leader driving progress every day

Clear, Measurable Goals

- Reduce infant mortality
- Improve kindergarten readiness
- Lower foster care involvement
- Expand whole-family supports statewide



WHO CHAMPIONED THE CREATION OF DCY?



Governor Mike DeWine

- Driven by a desire to leave a legacy for children
- Committed to making Ohio the best place to raise a family
- Elevated children's issues to a cabinet-level priority

Administration & State Leadership

- Consolidated programs from five agencies to streamline services
- Sustained effort across health, education, and child welfare systems
- Strong support from statewide partners, including judicial, child welfare, education, and family advocacy leaders

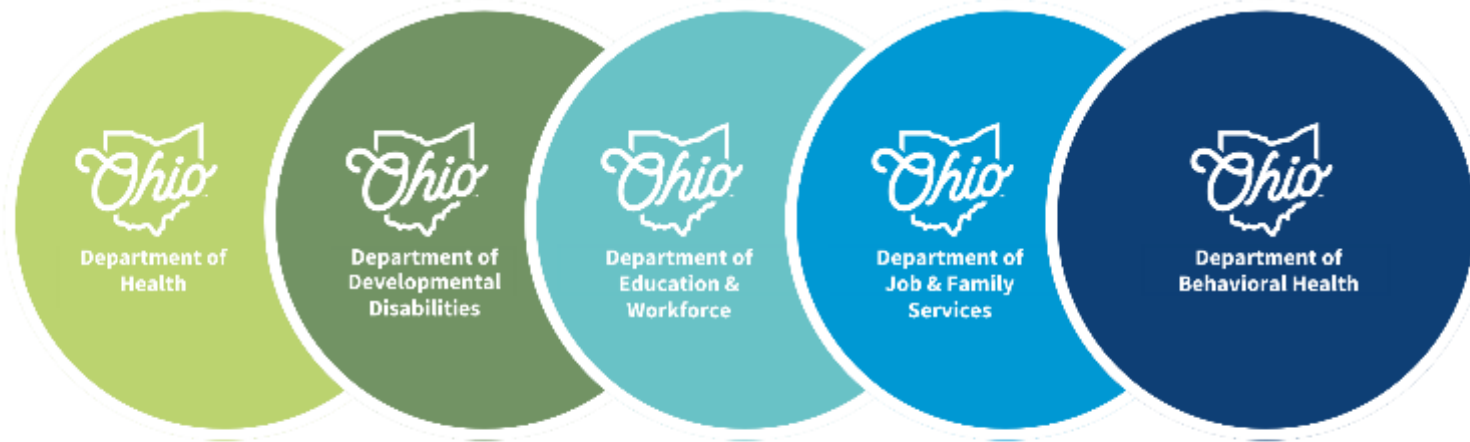
DCY Leadership

- Kara Wentz appointed as the first director, bringing decades of experience and driving implementation of strategic pillars and goals

How was it Done?

Bringing Together Services that Support Ohio Kids

Past

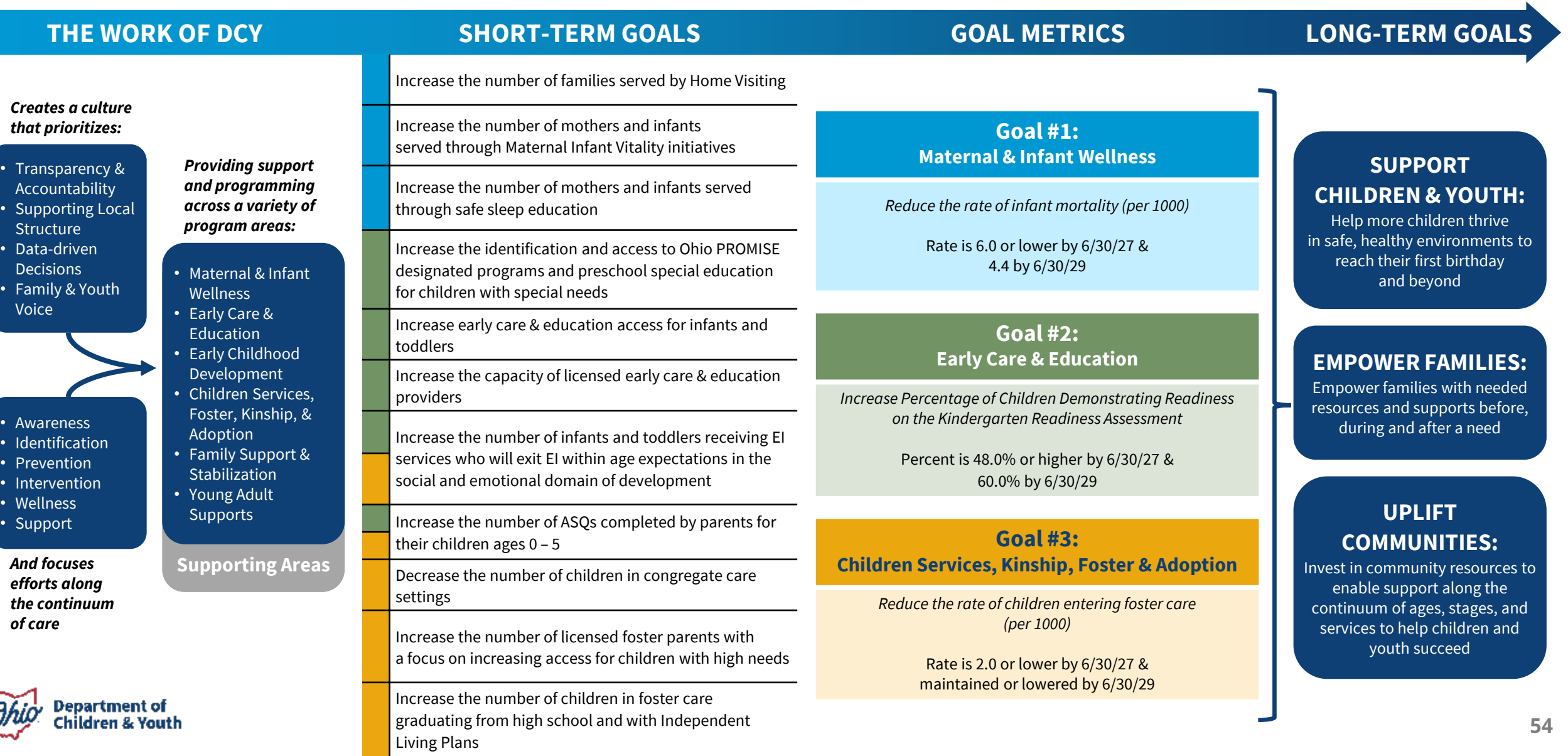


Today



Vision: Each Ohioan is able to live up to their full potential and have the opportunity to live their version of the American dream.

Mission: Promote positive, lifelong outcomes for Ohio youth through early intervention, quality education, and family support programs.



DCY Short & Long Term Goals

Ohio aims to be the best place in the country to start and raise a family and DCY has outlined the following goals to become a leading state (e.g., top 10 in the country across 3 program areas):

Goal #1:

Maternal & Infant Wellness

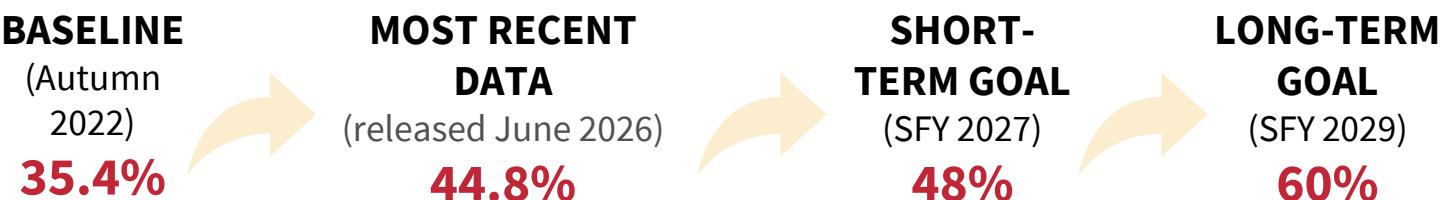
Reduce the Rate of Infant Mortality (per 1000)



Goal #2:

Early Care & Education

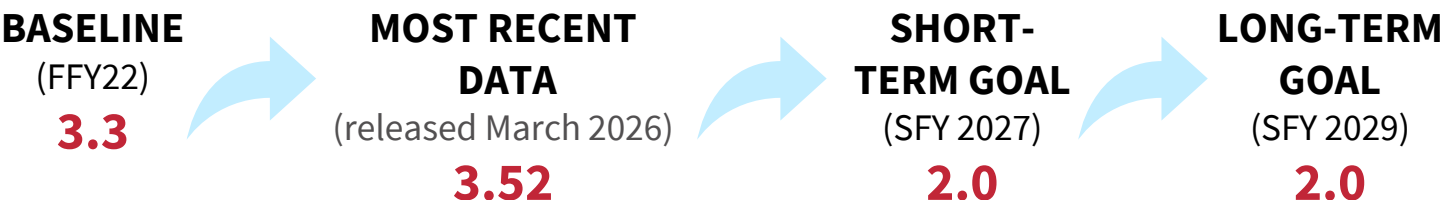
Increase the Percentage of Children Demonstrating Readiness on the KRA



Goal #3:

Children Services, Kinship, Foster & Adoption

Reduce the Rate of Children Entering Foster Care (per 1000)



Turning Vision into ACTION

Ohio aims to be the best place in the country to start and raise a family and has outlined their goals to become a top 10 state in the nation.



The progress that the Department of Children and Youth has made is only the beginning. Everything we do, from listening to families to reworking internal systems, is designed to achieve impact where it matters most: in the lives of Ohio's children.



That's why we organize our work around three Bold Goals. These goals guide our strategy, shape our partnerships, and hold us accountable for results and why it matters for Ohio's future.





CALAVERAS COUNTY

Building the Calaveras Care Team

How partners braid limited resources into
coordinated, prevention-focused support

Mayle Johnson

Deputy Director, Child Welfare
Calaveras County HHSA

Kristina Smith

Director, Student Support Services
Calaveras County Office of Education

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



Why the Care Team: CALAVERAS COUNTY

Strengths

- Culture of collaboration
- Tight-knit community
- Creativity and perseverance
- Ability and willingness to coordinate resources across systems

Challenges

- Rural county with limited resources and community service providers
- Common barriers include transportation, housing, and access to mental health resources



Why the Care Team: THE LOCAL NEED

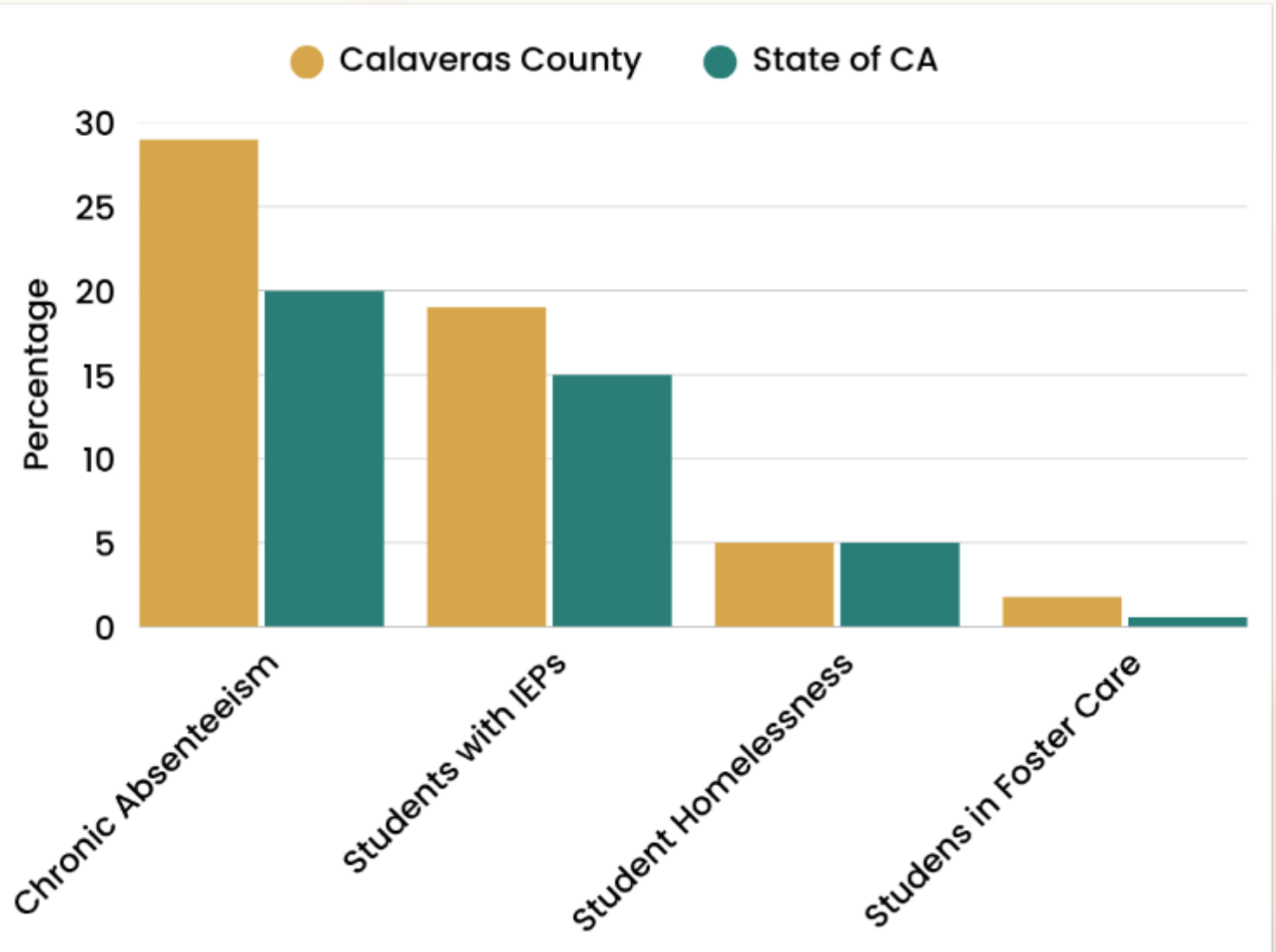
Calaveras County

- **29%** of students are **chronically absent**
- **19%** of students have an **IEP**
- **5%** of students **experience homelessness** during the school year
- **1.8%** of school-age students were in foster care

State of California

- **19.5%** of students are **chronically absent**
- **15%** of students have an **IEP**
- **5%** of students **experience homelessness** during the school year
- **0.6%** of students are in **foster care**

Calaveras County TK-12th Student Enrollment: 5,466



Why the Care Team: THE UNMET NEED

WHAT CALAVERAS ALREADY HAD

- System-level collaboratives
- Population-specific teams
- School attendance and special education processes
- Child and Family Team meetings

WHAT WAS MISSING

One voluntary, cross-agency process

When a child or family's needs crossed systems, there was no consistent process for coordinated planning, shared action, and follow-up.

How It Was Done:

AB 2083 brought partners to one table around a shared vision

AB 2083

To create a comprehensive, family-centered, culturally competent, prevention-focused approach to serve Calaveras County children, youth, and families, through collaboration and a seamless Children's System of Care.

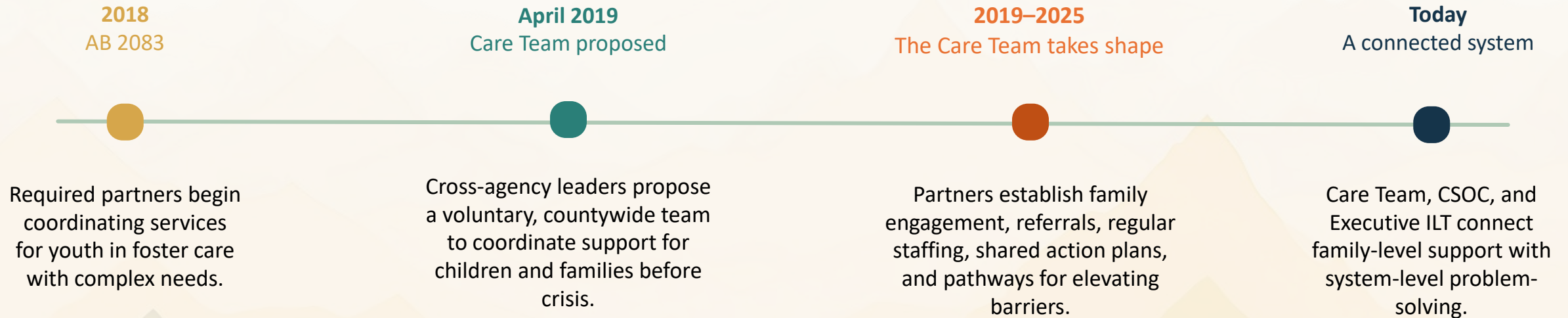


CALAVERAS
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION



How it Was Done: THE ORIGIN

The Care Team grew from shared responsibility into a countywide prevention pathway



Required coordination created the table. The Calaveras Care Team became our prevention-focused pathway for children and families across systems.

The Goal: FROM INTENT TO PRACTICE

The original goal was simple: reach families earlier and act together.

WHAT WE HOPED TO ACHIEVE

HOW IT OPERATES TODAY

Support children before crisis



Prevention and early-intervention referrals

Serve any child with cross-system needs



No open child welfare or probation case required

Invite families and obtain consent



Voluntary participation and consent-based coordination

Commit agencies to specific action



Named responsibilities, follow-up and accountability

Identify gaps and duplication



Recurring barriers can be elevated to system leadership

The Goal: A CONNECTED STRUCTURE

Family needs connect to system-level problem-solving.

Barriers move to the level with the authority and resources to resolve them.

EXECUTIVE ILT

Authority • policy • resources • unresolved barriers

CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE

Complex coordination • cross-agency practice • system gaps

CALAVERAS CARE TEAM

Family engagement • coordinated support • shared action • follow-through

How It Works: FROM REFERRAL TO ACTION

A consistent process turns shared responsibility into coordinated action.

HOW SUPPORT MOVES

- 1 Referral received
- 2 Family engagement
- 3 Cross-agency staffing
- 4 Coordinated action plan
- 5 Follow-up and closure

2025–26 CARE TEAM SNAPSHOT

37

families served

47

children and youth

23

families connected
to services

10

youth with an open child
welfare or probation case

Most youth served did not have an open child welfare or probation case.

How It Works: SUSTAINABILITY

Shared ownership and dedicated coordination made the model dependable.

Relationships created the foundation, and structure protected the work over time.

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Education, Child Welfare, and Behavioral Health remain jointly responsible

DEDICATED COORDINATION

- Family outreach and referrals
- Meeting coordination
- Tracking and follow-up

AUTHORITY + ACCOUNTABILITY

- Protected meeting time
- Partners authorized to act
- Clear escalation pathway

Braided resources across education, child welfare, and behavioral health sustain the work over time.

WHAT CALAVERAS HAS LEARNED

Five lessons from seven years of implementation

1 **Make ownership shared**

- No single agency can carry the model.

2 **Include families as partners**

- Family participation must be built into the process.

3 **Give representatives authority to act**

- Participation alone is not enough.

4 **Protect coordination capacity**

- Consistent coordination requires dedicated staff time.

5 **Use family experience to identify system gaps**

- Patterns across individual cases can guide system change.

Communities do not have to wait for a perfect new program. They can connect what already exists and build a structure that makes support more dependable for families.

WHAT'S NEXT (cont.)

Our Children's System of Care will continue connecting and strengthening the work already happening for children and families, while aligning eligible services and strategies with FFPSA and Title IV-E requirements.



Strengthen what is already working.



Align prevention efforts with FFPSA and Title IV-E requirements.



Use eligible resources to support coordination and approved services.

Building from a Strong Foundation

Applying the learnings to California

Like the jurisdictions we researched, California has spent the past decade moving further upstream — building initiatives focused on prevention and whole-family well-being.

Cross-System Well-Being Initiatives



CYBHI

Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative



Community Schools

Whole-child support integrated at school sites



CalAIM

Medi-Cal delivery system & payment reform



SOC

System of Care (AB 2083)

Child Welfare Council-Aligned Initiatives



FFPS

Family First Prevention Services Act



OYCR

Office of Youth & Community Restoration



MRAC

Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee

Building from a Strong Foundation

Applying the learnings to California (b)

Many of these initiatives have attempted to integrate the work across systems, particularly those under the purview of the CWC.

Like many of the jurisdictions researched, California has struggled with key themes that have become barriers to embedding well-being as an overarching approach:



**Consistent shared
vision
and outcomes**



**Cross-system
coordination**



**Integrated
financing**



**Permanency and
sustainability**



**Workforce
capacity**

These are the same barriers Ohio and Calaveras had to work through.

Building from a Strong Foundation

Applying the learnings to California (c)

1

Ohio & Calaveras took the next step

Both jurisdictions built on existing structures to address these same barriers head-on.

2

Neither built anything new

Their focus was rearranging work already underway across systems — maximizing resources into one overarching approach to well-being.

3

California can do the same

By building on the work already done and the infrastructure already established.

Building on Existing Infrastructure: Children and Youth System of Care (AB 2083)

Legislated in 2018, AB 2083 required counties to develop MOUs establishing shared leadership and service delivery for foster youth with complex needs. Required partners:

Juvenile Probation

Child Welfare / Social Service

County Office of Education

Regional Center

Behavioral Health

Tribal Partner

AB 2083 also required State Departments to form a parallel approach: accountabilities/reporting and a Gaps Analysis Report.

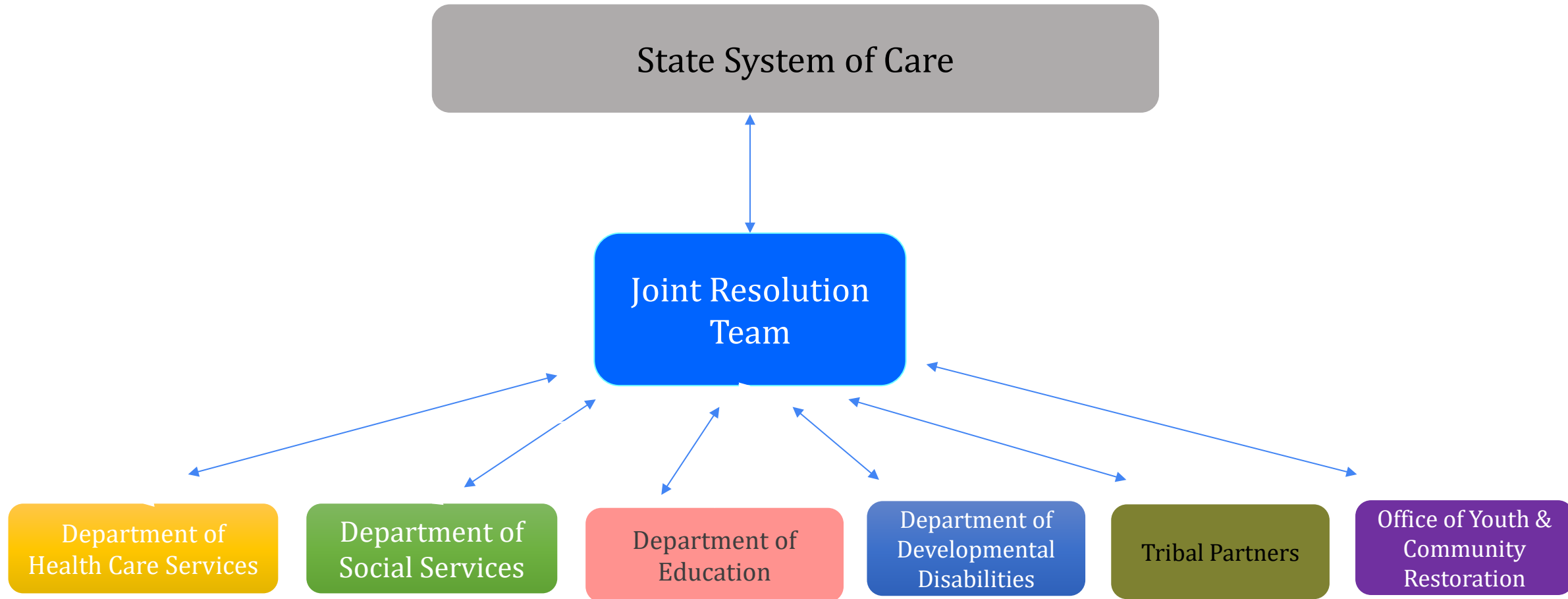
Moving to Well-Being: County Systems of Care

18 Counties are already building on their SOC infrastructure to expand to Prevention using Interagency Leadership Teams (ILTs) as oversight for their FFPS Comprehensive Prevention Plan and coordination of services across systems.

This includes:

- **Calaveras:** Formally expanded 2083 MOU to include prevention; added additional cross-system partners beyond those required, including Public Health, First 5 and Managed Care Plans.
- **Tuolumne:** CalAIM partner outcomes are merged with SOC data; used to inform their no wrong door efforts.
- **Ventura:** System wide Implementation of the Integrated Core Practice Model.
- **Fresno:** Co-funded and administered Intensive Community-Based/School-Centered models.

Building on an **EXISTING FOUNDATION** Children, Youth and Family Well-Being System of Care



INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE

Crosswalk of Partners, Laws, Regulations & Initiatives

One Community. Many Partners. Shared Responsibility. Better Outcomes for Children, Youth, Families & Adults.

SHARED INITIATIVES THAT DRIVE OUR WORK TOGETHER



PREVENTION
Invest upstream to strengthen families and reduce system involvement.



CHILD & FAMILY TEAMS
Families and youth at the center of collaborative decision-making.



INTEGRATED CORE PRACTICE MODEL
Common practice approach for consistent, trauma-informed services.



SHARED CASE PLANNING
One coordinated plan, multiple partners, aligned services.



TRAUMA-INFORMED & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICE
Healing-centered and equity-driven approaches.



FAMILY & YOUTH VOICE
Lived experience guides our systems and solutions.



DATA SHARING & INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Secure data practices that improve decisions and outcomes.



CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
Using data and feedback to adapt and improve.



CROSS-SYSTEM LEADERSHIP
Interagency leadership team and MOU guide alignment and accountability.



COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
Strengthen local resources and reduce reliance on higher levels of care.

ELIMINATING DUPLICATION: ALIGNING OUR EFFORTS

CURRENT STATE

- Probation JJCPA Needs Assessment
- Child Welfare Prevention Plan
- Behavioral Health Community Planning Process
- Public Health Community Health Assessment
- Education LCAP / Surveys
- Regional Center Needs Assessment
- Community-Based Org. Strategic Plans

Multiple assessments & surveys, limited alignment, community fatigue, mixed priorities, duplication of effort.

FUTURE STATE

- One Coordinated Community Needs Assessment
- Shared Data & Information Dashboard
- Shared Priorities & Strategies
- Braided & Aligned Funding
- Coordinated Implementation & Continuous Improvement

Aligned data, shared priorities, less duplication, stronger results for our community.

LAWS, REGULATIONS & INITIATIVES CROSSWALK

INITIATIVE / LAW	PROBATION	CHILD WELFARE	BEHAV. HEALTH	EDUCATION	PUBLIC HEALTH	REGIONAL CENTER	COURTS	CBOS	LAW ENFORCE	TRIBAL PARTNERS	SHARED OUTCOME
AB 2083	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Coordinated System of Care
FFPSA	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	Prevention & Family Strengthening
JJCPA	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	Diversion & Community Safety
CalAIM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Whole-Person Care & Access
MHSA / BHSA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Behavioral Health & Wellness
Comm. Schools / MTSS	✓			✓		✓					School Success & Stability
ACEs Aware	✓	✓			✓						Trauma-Informed Prevention
ICPM	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	Consistent Practice & Better Outcomes
Child & Family Teams	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Coordinated Planning & Services

Building on a **WELL-BEING FOUNDATION**

Children, Youth and Family Well-Being System of Care

State System of Care

Joint Resolution
Team

Department of
Health Care Services

Department of
Social Services

Department of
Education

Department of
Developmental
Disabilities

Tribal Partners

Office of Youth &
Community
Restoration

Department of
Public Health

The Judiciary

First 5 California

Department of
Housing

Where
We Are

Where
We're
Headed

Opportunities to Build on Research & Learnings

Grounded in Ohio and Calaveras: build on AB 2083 System of Care infrastructure — don't build something new

1

Formally expand on existing infrastructure

Amend AB 2083 MOUs and Interagency Leadership Team charters so prevention and well-being are an explicit, funded mandate — as Calaveras has already done locally.

2

Set a shared, cross-department outcomes framework

Adopt a small set of baseline-to-goal well-being metrics with public reporting, modeled on Ohio's 3-goal DCY framework, and tied to the SOC/ILT structure.

3

Administratively braid existing funding streams

Align Title IV-E, MHSA/BHSA, CalAIM, and FFPSA administration (HR, contracting, reporting) around shared families, rather than creating a new funding vehicle.

4

Anchor cross-department governance

For example, use the emerging State System of Care partnership as the state-level home for accountability across CYBHI, Community Schools, CalAIM, and SOC.

5

Invest in relationship-building and workforce capacity

Treat trust-building and shared staff development across systems as core infrastructure — both jurisdictions named this as the critical enabler, not a side effort.

These are directional themes for discussion — to be refined into recommendations for December 2026.

Next Steps & Discussion

Next Steps: Present a formal set of recommendations for discussion and vote at the December 2026 Child Welfare Council meeting.

Discussion Points

- What do you think of when you hear “Child, Family, and Community Well-Being”?
- What did you hear that generates ideas and/or possibilities?
- Where are there concerns or points for clarification?
- Can this approach build on what California is already implementing?
- Can we identify strategies that will move our current Child, Family, and Community Well-Being work forward?

Questions and Curiosities



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RESOURCES (cont.)

JURISDICTION / GROUP	RESOURCE
Ohio	Department of Children and Youth Ohio.gov  Ohio DCSY
Ohio	Ohio Department of Children and Youth Annual Report  Ohio DCSY Annual Report
California	Integrated System of Care  Integrated System of Care

RESOURCES (b)

JURISDICTION / GROUP	RESOURCE
PEI	Jurisdiction Research Snapshots
PEI	Jurisdiction Interview Guide

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

