

**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL**  
**CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Notes: March 4, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

○ **Introductions and Warm-up Exercise**

Gordon and Rochelle called the meeting to order. Gordon asked participant to introduce themselves and the share one word that best describes them. Here's what we are collectively:

- |               |              |               |              |               |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| ▪ Hope        | ▪ Joy        | ▪ Curious     | ▪ Data Hound | ▪ Intense     |
| ▪ Tenacious   | ▪ Energetic  | ▪ Patient     | ▪ Enabler    | ▪ Inquisitive |
| ▪ Cautious    | ▪ At Home    | ▪ Balancer    | ▪ Decisive   | ▪ Alive       |
| ▪ Multitasker | ▪ Determined | ▪ Adventurous | ▪ Persistent | ▪ Skeptical   |
| ▪ Conceited   | ▪ Athletic   | ▪ Positive    | ▪ Focused    | ▪ Advocate    |
| ▪ Optimistic  | ▪ Caretaker  |               |              |               |

○ **Minutes of December 10, 2014**

The Minutes of December 10, 2014 were approved as written.

○ **Debrief of full Council meeting**

Committee members offered reactions and comments regarding the full Council meeting. It was noted that the QIP (Psychotropic Medications) issues have been on the table for a long time, as has the Out-of-County mental health issue. Kudos were offered to the creators of the Education Toolkit and CSEC Action Team.

○ **Education Related Mental Health Services**

Chris Drouin, California Department of Education, provided a status report on AB114 implementation. The 2011-12 Budget Act and AB 114 significantly changed the way related services are delivered to students with emotional and behavioral needs:

- AB 114 (a trailer bill to the 2011-12 Budget Act signed June 30, 2011) eliminated the state statutory structure for mental health service delivery to students with IEPs through CMH
- By removing this structure, California returned responsibility for the provision of all IEP-based related services to LEAs, as established in federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Ed. Act)

Federal (IDEA) and State (Proposition 98) funds are distributed to SELPAs per an ADA-based formula. SELPAs distribute funds to their participant LEAs based on a local agreement. LEAs use their funds to pay for special education services, and report their expenditures to the CDE.

While LEAs are now fully responsible for ensuring that their students receive the services to which they are entitled, the LEAs have three options for how they provide these services (5 CCR 3051(a)(3)):

- Employ qualified staff to provide services directly;
- Contract with a CDE-certified Nonpublic School (NPS) or Nonpublic Agency (NPA); and/or,
- Contract with DHCS or its designee (e.g., MHP), or a vendor or contractor of such agency.

In the current fiscal year, State budget allocations for IEP mental health related services continue at similar levels, with the same restrictions (to support the provision of mental health related services required by students' IEPs).

State Level Activities:

- Continue to draft an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Health Care Services (Medi-Cal)
- Audit requested by Senator Beall: AB 114 funds received by educational agencies
- Specialty monitoring reviews for IDEA implementation of mental health related services
- Support for local capacity building

Local level needs:

Coordination of IEP mental health related services between agencies that have responsibility for the provision of the service(s)

- Continued development of local programs and services:
  - ✓ Supply of qualified providers (per regulations and statute)
  - ✓ Supply of qualified credentialed or certified staff
  - ✓ Full continuum of program options
  - ✓ Medi-Cal:
    - Schools’ Medi-Cal Administrative Activities
    - LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
    - Specialty Mental Health Services (County Mental Health Plans)

**Students Receiving Mental Health Services as a Percentage of All Students with Disabilities  
December 2010 to December 2014**

Year	Total Number of Students with Disabilities (SWD)	Total Number of SWD Receiving Mental Health (MH) Services	Percent of Total SWD Receiving MH Services
2010	677,201	75,985	11.22%
2011	684,459	78,527	11.47%
2012	693,008	82,880	11.96%
2013	702,505	86,264	12.28%
2014	717,961	93,696	13.05%

AB114 Website - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/>

AB 114 email - AB114TWG@cde.ca.gov

○ **Thinking Ahead: A Focus on Education**

Gordon kicked off a discussion on whether the Committee should be doing more to focus on education in addition to the other critical issues it has taken on. Several members reflected on education problems that persist for foster youth, or as Teri Kook said, “Problems to solve and opportunities to blossom” and suggested that Committee members read “No Time to Lose” by the John Burton Foundation to get a sense of the magnitude of the problem. Carol noted that sometimes students with disabilities have an easier road to college than foster youth. Vanessa told the story of a youth who had to choose between therapy and Spanish because the school schedule was limited. Karen informed the members that San Marcos State University offers a class for teachers called “Teaching Foster Youth.”

Gordon proposed that between now and the next Council meeting a small group, comprised of Gordon, Paige, Ken, Andrea and Sylvia, plus others identified as being leaders in the area of education of foster youth, meet to draft a proposed statement of purpose for a CDSYT Committee Work Group on Education.

- **Quality/Accreditation; Congregate Care Reduction; Recruitment and Retention of Quality Caregivers**

Cheryl Treadwell, California Department of Social Services, presented an overview of the Continuum of Care Report and Recommendations for improving the Child Welfare System; copies of the report were distributed.

- **Housing**

Vanessa Hernandez reported that the California Youth Connection had developed a comprehensive set of recommendations for transitional housing for youth currently and formerly in foster care. Vincent Bartle shared information regarding the amazing Independent Scholarship Network at U.C. Berkeley, founded and directed by Debra Martinez. The Network supports former foster youth by helping them secure housing, furnishings, books and supplies. It also has a mentor ship program that that helps youth deal with daily problems such as loud fraternity parties and finding places to study. Ms. Martinez also sponsors conferences for foster youth to celebrate their successes.

Judge Edwards mentioned the Guardian Scholars program that also supports youth in college and suggests that it be expanded to more colleges and universities. Rochelle stated that youth with mental health challenges experience difficulty in getting housing; there are not enough homes for non-minor dependents to meet the need, and homeless youth are sometimes criminalized.

For next steps, Sylvia will set up a conference call with Vanessa, Vincent and Anna Johnson to create a list of suggestions/deliverables that would address the housing issue. Rochelle will join the call depending on her schedule.

- **Wrap up and next steps**

Due to lack of time, the agenda items for Dependency Drug Treatment Courts and Over-Medication were put over to the June 3, 2015 agenda.

Gordon and Rochelle thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and for the work they would be doing over the next three months to be reviewed at the June 3, 2015 meeting per the updated work plan which will be distributed with the minutes.