

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes – June 1, 2016 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Introductions and Warm-Up Exercise

Gordon started the meeting in the spirit of the campaign season by asking everyone to introduce themselves and then share what TV character has the qualities that they would like to see in the next President. Lots of fun and creative answers, from the ridiculous to the sublime! Rochelle called for approval of the March 1st meeting notes, and they were approved as written.

Transition from Council meeting – what stood out for you as most relevant for the work of the Council and this Committee

Several Committee members expressed that they liked the Breaking Barriers presentation because of its relevance to collaboration. Cheryl mentioned the point was driven home for her because as she was calling in from Los Angeles, there was an active shooter on the UCLA campus. Len noted that Elizabeth Estes, the presenter, wanted folks to help identify counties that may want to join with counties that are already part of the project. Elizabeth's e-mail is on the PowerPoint that was distributed and Gordon asked everyone who wanted to propose counties for Breaking Barriers to do so no later than June 1, 2015.

Paul suggested that the collaborative focus of Breaking Barriers include homeless as well, and mentioned that this topic is the subject of SB 1380 (Mitchell). This bill would require a state agency or department that funds, implements, or administers a state program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, except as specified, to revise or adopt guidelines and regulations to include enumerated Housing First policies. The bill would also establish the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to oversee the implementation of the Housing First guidelines and regulations and, among other things, to identify resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California.

With regard to the Steering Committee proposal to evaluate the Council's success in meeting the goals of its enabling legislation, the question was raised regarding "how to measure collaboration – how do we know when we've achieved it?"

Several Committee members applauded the work of Chapin Hall on the CalYOUTH Study and Caseworker Survey, noting that it was the authors' Midwest Study that resulted in the creation of services for nondependent minors through the passage of AB 12. It was suggested that the focus of future studies be expanded to include information on healthy sexual development of foster youth and former foster youth as well as information on LGBTQ foster youth and former foster youth.

Psychotropic Medications – How will the newly-approved Section 1915(b)Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Waiver be implemented in California and will the SMHS Waiver affect the implementation of the Psychotropic Medication Quality Improvement measures?

Anna Johnson had raised this question at the last meeting, and Dina Kokkos-Gonzales and Brian Keefer of the Department of Health Care Services came to the meeting to provide an answer.

The waiver addresses the federal requirement for "freedom of choice" for beneficiaries in choosing a medical provider. Since California's Medi-Cal system has a managed care structure, the freedom of beneficiaries to go to any doctor does not exist because they must go to a doctor within their respective managed care plans, hence the need for California to get a waiver of the federal requirement. The waiver was approved for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

The feds granted the waiver with the following conditions: (1) Allow states to implement managed care delivery systems that limit individuals' choice of doctors; (2) May not be used to expand eligibility to individuals not eligible under the approved Medicaid State Plan; and (3) Cannot negatively impact beneficiary access, quality of care services, and must be cost-effective.

The Waiver requires oversight through triennial reviews of the system operations, outpatient chart reviews, and inpatient chart reviews plus focused reviews selected by the feds. Monitoring will occur through approval and validation of plans of correction, 24/7 test calls, reviewing quality improvement plans, reviewing grievance and appeal reports, and technical assistance to counties.

The implications of the waiver and the provisions of the Quality Improvement plan for psychotropic medications for foster youth and former foster youth was not entirely clear other than as recipients of Medi-Cal benefits they will be able to access services through managed health care plans. As Medi-Cal beneficiaries, the ongoing oversight and monitoring by the feds will support their timely access to medically necessary services by qualified providers.

Housing and Runaway/Homeless Youth

Paul presented a draft proposal to develop a model protocol for multi-system response to serve the needs of youth who run away from foster care. He referenced the ACF Letter of November 4, 2014, which provides guidance on services for foster youth under the age of 18 who run away from foster care and come in contact with runaway and homeless youth programs. The following suggestions and comments were offered as a way to strengthen the proposal:

- Data to be gathered on youth who run away from foster care should include: age, gender, placement prior to running away, number of previous placements, county-specific data. The list of possible participants on the workgroup could include a youth, especially one who is able and willing to testify and share his or her story.
- Mental health services for runaway youth should be included as part of any service array contained in the model protocol.
- Using the Partial Credits Model Policy as an example of the type of protocol we want to develop, it was suggested that a case study be added – a real life example of why it matters to have the protocol.
- Build incentives into the protocol. For example, Fresno County child welfare workers have found it is less work to find a runaway youth than it is to constantly report to the court that the youth is missing and measures being taken to find him or her. Another benefit is the message to foster youth that the child welfare agency cares, offering opportunities to collaborate with the community to find the youth and offer a safe placement.
- The protocol should be connected to the permanency work that is under development as part of the CDSS/Sara Roger's Continuum of Care Reform, CDSS/Mary Shepard's Engagement-Oriented Practice, Gail Johnson Vaughn's FamiliesNOW and Seneca's Family Finding Institute.
- Arrange a time at the September meeting to get together with the Permanency Committee to share the proposal and get their ideas for the model protocol.

Next steps were agreed upon:

1. Sylvia to follow up with Alicia Sandoval, CDSS and Daniel Webster at the UC Child Welfare Data Indicators Project to get an expanded set of data on the target population of youth who run from foster care.
2. Paul will redraft the proposal to incorporate the above suggestions.
3. Sylvia will contact the Permanency Committee Co-Chairs to arrange a time slot on their agenda for a joint meeting on the afternoon of September 7th.

Priority Employment

Deborah Cromer and Nisha Kashyap from the Alliance for Children's Rights provided a written status report on the progress of the project, which was distributed. Eight counties responded to a survey that they created and that CWDA/Diana Boyer distributed to county child welfare directors. David Ambroz suggested that all Committee members contact their respective county child welfare colleagues in the other 50 counties to find out if whether or not they have a policy and ask them to respond to the survey with information about any policy they have in place, or to let us know they do not have one. Sylvia will send an e-mail to Committee members with this request.

Rochelle said she will join David and Len on the workgroup and asked that we also include state civil service and state merit system employers in the project. Further discussion led to suggestions that the project seek information from providers who hire former foster youth and from a literature review of similar efforts at priority employment of former foster youth. Deborah and Nisha would like to set up a conference call with the work group members and asked David to let them know about his availability.

Education

Paige reported that the work group is still in the process of gathering information related to whether or not foster parents can have access to educational information regarding children in their care even if they are not the educational rights holder. She requested time on the September agenda to report on the findings.

Supporting Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care

Workgroup members are participating on the CDSS workgroup on this topic and providing input based on the workgroup’s findings from last year’s convening and subsequent work with foster parents. It was suggested that the two CDSS leaders of this effort, Lori Fuller (CDSS/Children and Family Services Division) and Fernando Sandoval (CDSS/Community Care Licensing Division,) be invited to the Committee meeting in September to share progress of the CDSS workgroup. Sylvia to follow up.

Work Plan Update

See attached.

Wrap up – Plus/Delta

Gordon asked meeting participants to do a “plus/delta” on how this meeting went for them.

PLUS – what went well?	DELTA – what could be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well informed ▪ Not lost on what the Committee is doing even though I have been on leave ▪ Gordon and David’s dialogue during the “Priority Employment” item ▪ More down-to-earth and more voices that in other forums ▪ Diverse viewpoints ▪ Youth participate and their voices are relevant ▪ Level of openness, inclusiveness and engagement in discussions ▪ Housing and homeless discussion ▪ Employment discussion ▪ Feel encouraged and pumped up to work on the issues we’ve identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need another upbeat brain teaser half-way through the meeting – a break ▪ Get everyone more engaged by being clearer on how to take work to the next step ▪ Presentation by DHCS was confusing, not “spot on” ▪ Serve coffee and chocolate ▪ Incorporate more learning styles, such as by taking notes on flip charts

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Item	Action Steps	Point Person
Housing and Homeless Foster Youth Work Group	1. Ask Alicia Sandoval, CDSS, and Daniel Webster, UC Child Welfare Data Indicators Project for assistance in compiling data.	Sylvia
	2. Redraft the proposal to incorporate the above suggestions.	Paul
	3. Arrange a time slot on the Permanency Committee agenda for a joint meeting on the afternoon of September 7 th to discuss this item.	Sylvia
Priority Employment	1. Send request asking Committee members to reach out to their respective county child welfare colleagues regarding the survey on county priority employment policies.	Sylvia (done 6/2/16)
	2. Let Deborah and Nisha know about availability for a conference call.	David
Supporting Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care	1. Continue to participate on CDSS work group – next meeting June 2, 2016 at CDSS.	Rochelle, Vanessa, Joy, Marsha
	2. Invite Lori Fuller and Fernando Sandoval to the 9/7/16 Committee meeting to report on progress of CDSS workgroup	Sylvia