

**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL**  
**CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Notes: December 10, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

○ **Introductions and Warm-up Exercise**

Gordon noted that Rochelle was absent from the meeting because she was presenting her MSW thesis proposal to faculty at Humboldt State. He welcomed Committee members and asked them to introduce themselves and then tell the group what one thing they would want to see eliminated in the world. Members introduced themselves and the following is a list of some of the evil things we would want to have disappear from the face of the earth:

- People with lack of perspective
- Racism
- Ebola
- Mosquitos
- World hunger
- Affluence
- Cancer
- Fundamentalism
- Inconsiderate people
- Need for sin
- Disparity between treating physical illness and mental illness
- War
- Ignorance regarding health and protection of planet

○ **Minutes of September 10, 2014**

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

○ **Debrief of full Council meeting**

Gordon asked for Committee members' reactions and comments regarding the full Council meeting. Vanessa said she was still processing the CALYouth study finding that transitioning foster youth felt they were ready to parent, wondering how the question was asked. Based on her conversations with former foster youth, she hypothesized that they had clear ideas about what they would *not* do as parents, not necessarily about what they would do. Ken agreed that the study question needed to be fixed to get at youths' understanding of what "ready to parent" meant. Jane suggested that the responses to this question might be better understood if there were also data on what the general population of 17 year olds would say.

David stated that the mental health data should have included specific information regarding suicide and that the pregnancy data should have included specific information about abortion because we need better understanding of how to serve youth who have contemplated or attempted suicide or faced decisions regarding an unplanned pregnancy in addition to preventing both these conditions.

Patrick observed that the Council's agendas have jammed in to many topics using a "show and tell" approach and that it would be more helpful to structure agendas with fewer items, which would allow more time for discussion of each topic.

○ **Review of Work Plan Status**

Committee members reviewed each of the items on the October 8, 2014 version of the work plan and updated the topics and action steps needed to make progress on or complete each one. The December 10, 2014 version of the work plan is available as a separate document.

- **Partial Credit – Expanded Toolkit**

Paige Fern Chan and Jill Rowland from Alliance for Children’s Rights presented the contents of a soon-to-be released expanded toolkit for implementing the Partial Credits Model Policy approved by the Council. The Toolkit builds on the Partial Credits Manual they had developed earlier. The Committee agreed that the expanded toolkit should be presented to the full Council at its March 10, 2015 meeting.

- **Foster Children’s Healthy Sexual Development**

Sylvia reported that the work group was moving forward to build on the position paper presented to the Council earlier in the year by planning an “Open Space Technology Gathering” on this topic is scheduled for February 5, 2015, with invitees including foster youth, former foster youth, foster parents, group home providers, child welfare workers, community care licensing representatives, as well as Committee members who request to participate. A “Book of Proceedings” will be prepared after the gathering to capture the comments, suggestions and ideas that were discussed.

- **Young Children in Foster Care**

At the full Council meeting in the morning, Camille gave a demonstration of the foster parent messaging that has been added to the First 5 California Media Campaign. Camille will work with Sylvia to arrange for Committee members to participate in the First 5 California Annual Conference in Spring 2015 to spread the messaging for foster parents.

- **Over Medication**

Bill and Anna expanded comments made at the presentation to the Council in the morning, observing that the Courts have been absent from the discussion, which is particularly concerning because JV 220 process was established to put the courts in charge of solving the problem. They advocated for greater Judicial Council involvement and also for greater child and caregiver involvement in the process and for public health nurses to have a role. Treatment guidelines should be developed and “Red flag” situations should be identified as requiring reports to the court. It is also important to identify the prescribers of psychotropic medications to ensure they are knowledgeable about their purposes, side effects, reactions when used in combination with other drugs, and long-term consequences.

At the morning Council meeting, Bill had presented several recommendations for how the Quality Improvement Project (QIP) could further improve efforts to solve the problem. Action steps outlined on the QIP timetable are still in progress and the Committee will continue to monitor the work of the QIP. Bill and Anna identified Harry Hendricks (DHCS) and Pete Cervinka (CDSS) as potential champions for achieving the QIP goals. To build on these goals, Anna said she would compile a list that compares and contrasts the goals of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for education, Katie A settlement implementation and QIP project that could be useful in leveraging efforts on one initiative with the other two.

- **Wrap up and next steps**

Gordon 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 March 4, 2015 meeting per the updated work plan which will be distributed to everyone by the end of the month.