



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



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Governor

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

DIANA S. DOOLEY
Secretary, California Health and
Human Services Agency
Cochair, California Child Welfare Council

VANCE RAYE
Administrative Presiding Justice
Cochair, California Child Welfare Council

September 14, 2016

To All Californians:

We are pleased to submit the 2015-16 Annual Report of the California Child Welfare Council pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16540. The Council is an advisory body that is responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of multiple agencies and courts that serve children and youth in the child welfare system. The Council is required to monitor and report to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council and the public the extent to which child welfare programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care.

During this past Fiscal Year, the Council built on work begun in prior years to further develop multi-system collaboration and effective partnerships necessary for continued improvement within the child welfare system. The Committees and Task Forces of the Council developed toolkits, resource guides, and advisory recommendations toward achieving the following goals:

- Supporting educational success of foster youth.
- Ending child trafficking.
- Promoting child abuse prevention services.
- Ensuring foster children who reside outside of their county of court jurisdiction can receive medically necessary mental health services.
- Increasing timely access to services by parents of children in foster care so that the family can be reunified.
- Creating best practices that better support healthy sexual development of youth in foster care.

The Council also heard from experts who presented information regarding (1) recent child welfare research; (2) how other cross-system collaborations achieve success; and (3) the newly-established Child Welfare Digital Services project. The reports and recommendations related to these topic areas may be found on the Council's website at <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/GeneralInformation.aspx>.

We welcome feedback from the public at any time. Please direct your comments and questions to CWCouncil@chhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DIANA S. DOOLEY, Co-Chair
Secretary, California Health and Human
Services Agency

VANCE RAYE, Co-Chair
Administrative Presiding Justice,
Third District Court of Appeals

Attachment