



California Child Welfare Council

California Prevention and Early Intervention  
Statewide Citizen Review Panel

The Power of Community



March 2, 2016

Dear Director Lightbourne,

As a member of the California Child Welfare Council and as the former co-chair of the Prevention/Early Intervention Committee, you know that one of the key challenges the Council has undertaken is the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Since taking on the responsibilities of the statewide Citizen Review Panel, the Council's Prevention and Early Intervention Committee has focused on a review of policies and systems that are needed to not only facilitate *prevention* of child abuse and neglect, but also *promotion* of health and well-being for all children and families.

Last year we focused on (1) the development and dissemination of a toolkit on federal child welfare financing to better inform partners of issues and opportunities related to reform; and (2) expanded thinking on the benefit of a uniform statewide Prevention Framework. During 2015, we continued to build on this work as described in the attached report and recommendations.

As chair I respectfully submit the attached 2015/2016 Report and Recommendations on behalf of the Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel, pursuant to our responsibilities as specified by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

You will find that the recommendations support our belief that children do best in safe, stable, and permanent families and that federal funding system for child welfare must adequately support this goal. We further believe that there are core elements of prevention practice that should be made uniform across California counties in order to improve the lives of children at-risk.

We look forward to your response to our recommendations and would welcome any updates regarding past recommendations. The Families First Act has added urgency to the work of federal reform of child welfare financing.

We commend your ongoing leadership that views child welfare through the lens of prevention. We also appreciate the role that you, Secretary Dooley, and Greg Rose have played in promoting the interests of California's children and families in federal finance reform.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn Icenhower, Ph.D*

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*California Child Welfare Council*

*Chair, Prevention and Early Intervention-Statewide Citizen Review Panel*