

ACTION ITEM
Child Welfare Council – September 4, 2013

**Vote for the Child Welfare Council to Co-Sponsor the Administrative Office of the Court's
Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit on December 4, 2013**

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Superintendent of Public Education Tom Torlakson are co-sponsoring the Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit on December 4, 2013 in Anaheim, California. Secretary Diana Dooley has also agreed to be a co-sponsor and will be speaking at the event. The Summit will bring together judicial officers, educators, juvenile justice and child welfare professionals, and community leaders to put a spotlight on the problem of truancy and school discipline policies creating a "school-to-prison pipeline" for California's children and youth; to highlight some successful solutions to the problem; and to engage local teams to return to their home counties with a strategy to keep kids in school and out of court.

The planning for this event has been one of the collaborative efforts of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care (BRC) and the Child Welfare Council (CWC), with BRC/CWC member Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie leading the effort as chair of the BRC's workgroup organizing the event and CWC member Gordon Jackson partnering in the planning on behalf of the California Department of Education. To date, more than 30 California counties have signed up to bring multidisciplinary teams of up to eight members to the event, which is being funded through philanthropic and federal government grants.

Summit proceedings will include a pre-Summit day of workshops and presentations for teams on promising court-, school- and community-based interventions; trauma-informed approaches to changing outcomes; brain development and other issues held in conjunction with Beyond the Bench followed by a reception for Summit teams where the Chief Justice and Superintendent Torlakson can provide appreciation for the day's work.

The Summit will feature speakers addressing the challenges and promises of a new focus on truancy and school discipline policies from both a federal and statewide perspective to include the Chief Justice, the Superintendent of Public Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General; and local team building activities aimed at galvanizing local teams to establish effective court-based or other programs in their own communities.

Summit follow-up will include seeking funding to provide activities to reinforce these initial efforts for schools, courts, and other members of county teams. Activities may include implementing successful initiatives in the schools and courts, working with county teams to focus county strategies, tracking data for judicial officers, and providing continuing education on the issue.

What does a vote to co-sponsor the Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Summit mean? A vote to co-sponsor this event means that the Child Welfare Council, in its capacity as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children in the child welfare system, endorses the event. Furthermore, a vote in the affirmative clearly communicates the council's support of the belief that addressing these issues is important for this state because this work will help build a brighter future for California's children, youth, and families. Council members will be invited to the Summit and to the reception the evening before the Summit.