

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Discussion Highlights
December 7, 2016

I. Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions

Secretary Dooley and Justice Raye called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Secretary Dooley asked Council members and public participants to introduce themselves. Secretary Dooley announced that this was Sylvia Pizzini's last meeting and called on Justice Vance Raye, Director Will Lightbourne; Judge Boulware Eurie; Gail Gronert who presented Resolution from Assemble Speaker Reardon; and Frank Mecca, who presented a plaque from the County Welfare Directors Association. Each made comments of appreciation. Secretary Dooley then read a letter from Governor Brown acknowledging Sylvia's work.

II. Action Item: Approval of the June 1, 2016 Discussion Highlights

Justice Raye asked for comments or suggested revisions to the September 7, 2016 Child Welfare Council Discussion Highlights. There being none, they were approved on a consensus vote.

III. Information Item: Community Based Youth Serving Organizations and the Economic Integration of Disconnected Youth in the San Joaquin Valley

Secretary Dooley stated that next Council members would have the opportunity to learn about new research on "disconnected youth," which includes information on foster youth. She called on Council members Daniel Webster and Cherie Schroeder to introduce researcher Dr. Anne Visser. Daniel reviewed Dr. Visser's academic achievements as an Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Development in the Department of Human Ecology at U.C. Davis; her research interests are migrant labor, poverty, informal economy, low-wage labor markets, and social and economic inequality. She has a Ph.D. in public and urban policy from the New School for Social Research in New York and previously taught at Hunter College in New York. Cherie said that Dr. Visser had made presentations to the Yolo County Foster and Kinship Education class and the Council's Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee, and both groups found the information regarding foster youth helpful in understanding the needs and possibilities for improving opportunities for them.

Dr. Visser then presented her findings, titled "Mediating Exclusion, Promoting Opportunity: Community Based Youth Serving Organizations and the Economic Integration of Disconnected Youth in the San Joaquin Valley." The purpose of her presentation was to:

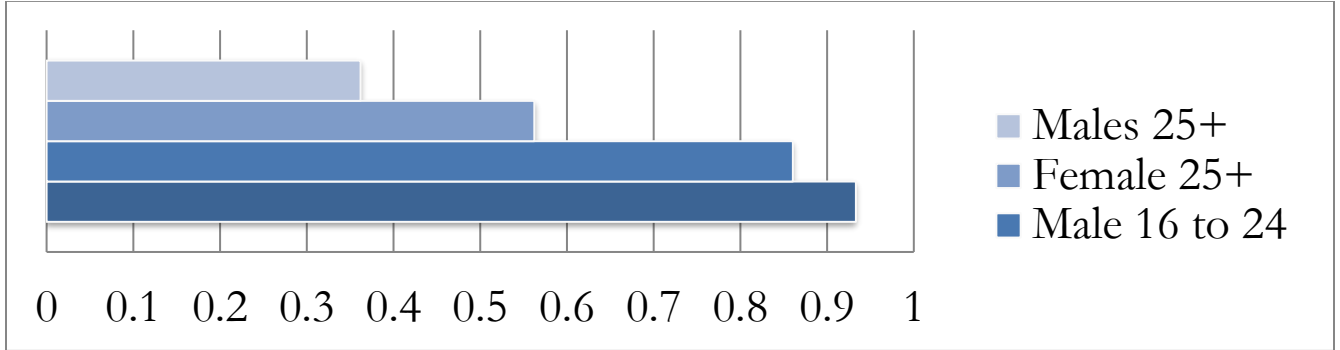
- Share findings of an ongoing research study that examines economic integration of disconnected youth in the United States:
 - 5 year mixed-method study based in the San Joaquin Valley.
 - Focused on the role of community institutions and networks in influencing economic integration of this youth population.
- Engage in a discussion about the implications of the findings as they relate to foster youth and former foster youth more generally.
- Examine ways in and extent to which young adults participate in and access:
 - labor markets.
 - public services.
 - housing markets.
 - Education.
 - health sectors.

She stated that the Great Recession has had a "hang over" effect on the youth labor market. Household formation rates of young adults have dropped by 50%, and household ownership rates among those ages 18-29 was 15% in 2015 (down from 22% in 2005). The rates of participation in post-secondary

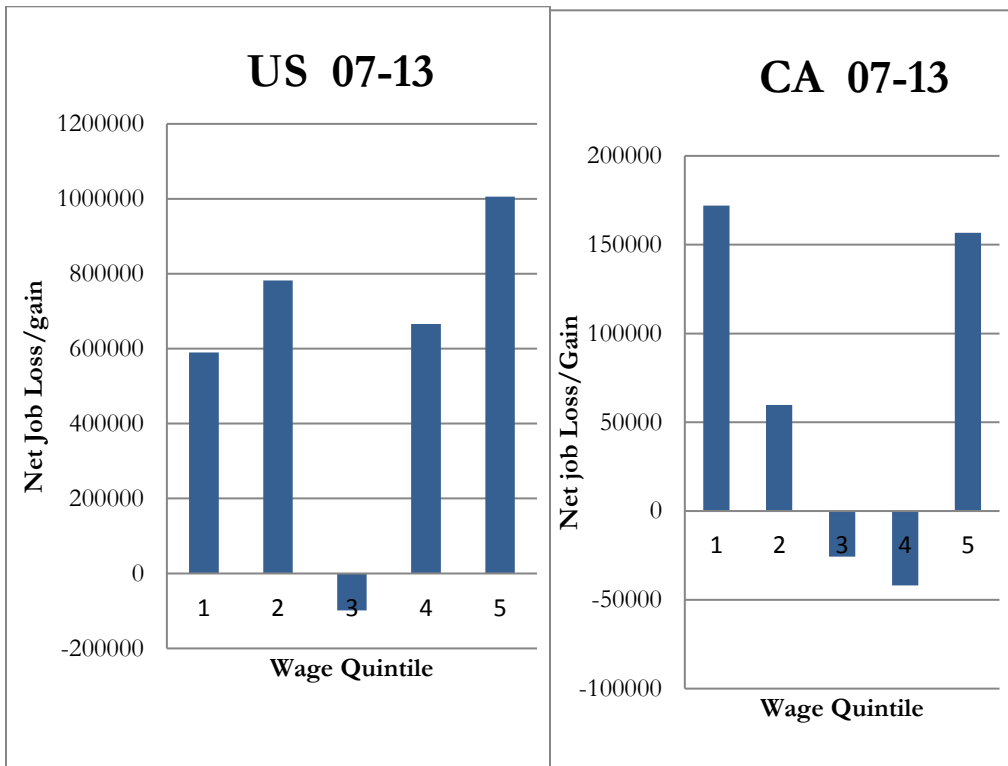
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education increased nationally during 2008-2013, and, while the average student debt in California (\$22,191) is better than most states (ranked 48th), borrowers report more difficulty repaying.

The Probability of engaging in low wage work during the Great Recession increased among all workers, as follows:



Current labor markets exhibiting increased job polarization and were impacted by job losses during the recession:



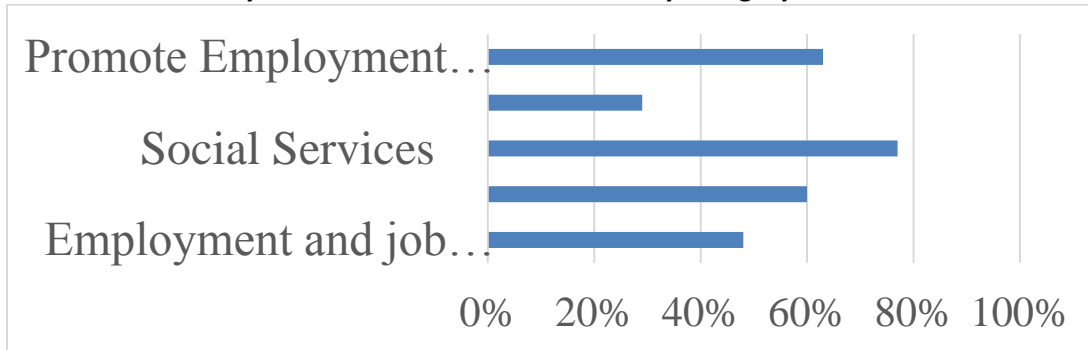
Theory strongly suggests that community institutions and policy networks offer opportunities to influence developmental trajectories of youth. Community Based Youth Serving Organizations (CBYSO) “seek to engage youth via after-school programs, youth programs, youth activities, community programs, extracurricular activities and programs during non-school hours and are not based in a school setting or within the context of a faith-based institution” (D’Agostino and Visser, 2009, 23).

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The San Joaquin Valley Study covers five years and examined the role and impact of the interactions disconnected youth have with community institutions and policy networks on economic integration; it included information gathered from 52 CBYSOs and interviews with 150 disconnected youth across 8 counties: Kings, Merced, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, San Joaquin, Kern, and Stanislaus.

An in-depth ethnographic study of three CBYSOs is now in progress. Many CBYSOs are not consciously “disconnected youth serving organizations.” The majority receive funding primarily from private donors followed by federal and county governments. Over 64% of CBYSOs report annual incomes of less than \$1,000,000, and upwards of 70% of income is directed towards services utilized by disconnected youth

Services Provided by CBYSOs to Disconnected Youth By Category



Intermediaries and Brokers:

Economic intermediaries and brokers include:	Social intermediaries and brokers include:	State/political intermediaries include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job fairs • Job matching and placement • Computer literacy courses • Vocational courses • Job safety training • Certification and training programs • Support youth participation in local job fairs • Referrals to external job training programs • Internships • Employ disconnected youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter • Transitional housing • Basic subsistence services • Child care services • Provide direct services/offer referrals to medical services, mental health treatment, prenatal health, chronic disease management and health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Testimony in formal policy settings • Provide information to policymakers • Partnerships with schools and community colleges • Referrals to external GED and adult education programs • Offer GED course programs • Assist with applying to government medical insurance and social assistance programs

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Mechanisms through which CBYSOs Undertake Intermediary/Broker Activities:

	High Resource Dependence	Low Resource Dependence
Formal	Institutionalized activities, where staff exercise agency, and a high level of organizational resources are utilized	Institutionalized activities, but where staff do little, and few organizational resources are utilized
Informal	Not institutionalized activities, but the CBYSO provides them regardless, and a high level of organizational resources are utilized	Not institutionalized activities, where staff does little or nothing, and few organizational resources are utilized

Barriers to Serving Disconnected Youth in the San Joaquin Valley

- Identifying and recruiting disconnected youth
- Growing and diverse client populations
- Financial challenges
- Staffing challenges
- Relationships with government
- Demonstrating impact

Factors Influencing Effectiveness of CBYSOs in Serving Disconnected Youth Whom are Foster/Former Foster Youth

- Stability over time
- Resiliency to economic, political, and social shifts
- Capacity to provide/broker services related to sensitive issues
- Integration with outside institutions and networks

Summary and Implications for Supporting Disconnected Youth Whom are Foster Youth/Former Foster Youth

- CBYSOs are critical bridges that allow marginalized older youth to access resources that are otherwise difficult to reach without strong social networks and community ties
- CBYSOs serve a complex substitution function for marginalized older youth
- CBYSOs may have more of an impact on youth economic integration than the presence of concentrated poverty

Areas of Policy Intervention and Investment

- Increase public resources available to CBYSOs who serve disconnected youth who are current or former foster youth
- Prioritize and support policies that address root causes of disconnection among foster youth/former foster youth
- Invest in long-term policy options that respond to changing economic landscapes while also providing “stop-gap” support to this youth population
- Develop strategies to identify the needs of current and former foster youth whom are disconnected youth and the work of community institutions and networks that support them
- Promote effective collaboration among CBYSOs, industry, and government
- Encourage anti-poverty policy experimentation

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Dr. Visser concluded her presentation with contact information: mavisser@ucdavis.edu and @MANneVisser . Related policy reports and briefs are available online through the Institute for Public Anthropology (CSU Fresno): <http://www.fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/anthropology/ipa/>

Secretary Dooley thanked Dr. Visser for sharing her extremely thorough and informative research.

IV. Information Item: Cal Fresh as a Resource for Foster Youth and Former Foster Youth

Justice Raye called on Greg Rose and Kim McCoy Wade from the Department of Social Services to inform Council members and the public regarding efforts underway and planned to let non-minor dependent foster youth and former foster youth know about the CalFresh program (formerly known as Food Stamps). Greg announced that the Children and Family Services Division had partnered with CalFresh Branch to reach out to former foster youth who qualify for CalFresh benefits, and introduced Kim McCoy who made the presentation.

Kim started by providing data on current participation by foster youth in CalFresh, as depicted on the following two tables based on age and foster care status respectively:

Age	All Youth*	Percent <u>Not</u> Participating
18	10,532	60%
19	4,330	63%
20	5,723	59%
Total	20,585	60%

Overall results are broadly consistent with estimates from CalYOUTH study.

*Youth age 18-20 during Calendar Year 2015 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

Foster Care Status	All Youth	Percent <u>Not</u> Participating
Non-Minor Dependent Only ¹	11,218	69%
Former Foster Youth Only ²	6,221	50%
Both ³	3,146	49%
Total	20,585	60%

¹Youth in foster care during entire period

²Youth not in foster care during entire period

³Youth in and out of foster care during entire period

Kim reviewed **Current Strategies** to inform non-minor dependents and former foster youth regarding CalFresh opportunities as:

- Expanded Guidance on Student Eligibility

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- New guidance regarding student eligibility; highlighting current and former foster youth program participation that will exempt students from the work requirement
- Connecting with Foster Youth
 - CalFresh flyer sent with Chafee Education and Training Voucher program mailer
- Connecting with Foster Care Service Providers Community
 - John Burton Foundation Q&A
 - Presenting at Youth Engagement Project Ambassadors December meeting

Kim stated that planned **Future Initiatives** include:

- New Guidance on Non Minor Dependent Income
 - Counties will receive new guidance and clarification regarding treatment of Non Minor Dependent (NMD) income for the purposes of determining CalFresh benefits
- Foster Youth Focused Webinar
 - In partnership with CA Welfare Directors Association and foster youth service providers, the webinar will focus on NMD income guidance, student eligibility and foster youth outreach efforts.

Kim concluded by stating that in addition to the current and planned strategies, the Department will continue to develop communication channels to be sure non-minor dependents and former foster youth can take advantage of CalFresh benefits. Council members commented on the value that CalFresh benefits can have for these young adults by easing financial struggles as they continue their education and enter the workforce.

V. Information Item: Updated Data Sharing Agreement

Secretary Dooley announced that the Data Integration and Information Sharing Committee has been working closely with the Department of Social Services and the Child Welfare Services-New Systems Project to update the Data Sharing Agreement previously approved by the Council. She called on Daniel Webster to review the revised agreement, which had been posted for three weeks. Daniel reviewed the preamble to the agreement, now titled, "Statement of Information Sharing, Data Standardization and Interoperability," which states:

This document affirms the strong support of the California Child Welfare Council ("Council") for enhanced data sharing across service systems to improve decision making as well as the provision, integration, and quality of services for children, families and caregivers. The Council recognizes the importance of legal safeguards for protecting the confidentiality of children, families, and caregivers served by state and local agencies, the courts, and other public and private entities. These entities deal with extremely personal and sensitive information in attempting to provide an array of services and resources to meet the complex needs clients. Notwithstanding this complexity and the vast number of programs and services involved, the Council declares that children, families, and caregivers are best served in a system that allows for fully informed decisions and timely access to information to meet the needs of this population.

The importance of accessing and appropriately using standard information sharing frameworks, models, and quality data elements cannot be overstated. Standardization provides a basis for interoperable systems and reusable data exchanges that advance an effective integrated system of care. It ensures children and families are assisted by a child welfare system that is properly informed, guided and striving for ongoing improvement through timely access to comprehensive information.

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Kevin Gains, CDSS Branch Chief spoke about the need to update the previous agreement because of the changed strategy to upgrading the current Child Welfare Services/Case Management System. Peter Kelly, Project Director for CWS-New System affirmed the need for the revised Statement to align with the emerging approach.

Patrick Gardner expressed concern that Council members may not understand the document. He urged his colleagues not to simply accept and pass the document, and then “push it to the back burner.” Instead he said that Council members should focus more intently on how data could be shared in a timely way, rather than, as in the example of the foster care and mental health data merger, taking three years in order to gain a better understanding of the mental health needs of youth in foster care.

After confirming that Patrick’s concern was intended as advisory to his colleagues, Secretary Dooley called for a consensus vote, which was given.

VI. Information Item: Results of Beta Test for Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS)

Justice Raye called on Frank Mecca and Dana Blackwell to introduce the topic, and, they then turned the presentation over to Judy Webber, Ventura County’s Deputy Director for Child and Family Services. Ms. Webber said she would be presenting on behalf of herself and Elaine Crandall, Ventura County Director of Behavioral Health, who was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Webber gave the following update of the Ventura County PASS Beta Test.

➤ **Context and Overview**

Priority Access to Services and Support (PASS) Program:

- Ensures timely engagement and access by parents receiving reunification services into mental health and alcohol and drug services
- Goal is to expand PASS approach to CFS children within 15 days of detention hearing



The following milestones related to staff training and development of tools have been met:

- Protocol developed;
- Screening tool revised;
- Release of Information form finalized;
- Focus group completed; and
- Communication with Dependency Court partners established.

The Ventura County Protocol involves the following steps

- Emergency Response worker completes Release of Information form (ROI)
- Court Intake completes screening form
- Court submits package (ROI, screening tool) to Program

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- Program in Algorithm receives package

➤ **The PASS impact: Quantitative Results include:**

Demographics of population studied (N = 119, including one parent served twice)

	<u>Percent</u>
Gender	
Female	61.9
Male	38.1
Total	100.0
Race/ethnicity	
African American	3.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.6
Caucasian	39.3
Latina/o (If considering traditionally Latina/o last names, then 67.9% out of 84 clients were Latino/a)	51.8
Multiple	1.8

The age ranged from 18 to 52 years old; average age was 31½ years; and half were over 31 years.

➤ **Summary of services: N = 119 parents and 152 referrals**

	<u>Total</u>
PARENTS	
Total number of parents screened using the PASS algorithm	98
Percent of parents screened using the PASS algorithm	83%
Of parents screened, percent who were screened in 5 working days of detention hearing	85%
REFFERALS	
Of parents referred, percent who received appointments in 5 working days of referral	87%
Of parents with appointments, percent assessed in 5 working days of appointments	69%
Of parents assessed, percent linked to services in 5 working days of assessment	85%

➤ **Timeliness of services**

- 83% of parents were screened, with (85% within 5 working days)
- 87% had appointments in 5 working days of screening
- 69% of the parents with appointments had assessments completed
- 85% of those with assessments were linked with services in 5 working days
- Increasing the time frame to 7 working days leads to a rate of 88% for assessments being conducted

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➤ **Parents referred for services**

Number of referrals	Number of parents	Percent
None	1	1.0
1	38	38.8
2	58	59.2
3	1	1.0
Total	98	100.0

Organization to which referred	Number of parents referred	Percent
ADP	65	63.4
Beacon	73	77.4
Star	20	20.4

Number of Days from intake to referral	Assessments	Services Linked
Same day	40.5	48.5
1	----	3.0
2	7.2	15.2
3	11.9	9.1
4	4.8	6.1
5	7.1	3.0
6	2.4	----
7	7.1	3.0
8 or more	19.0	12.1
Total N	100.0	100.0
Missing		
Statistics		
Minimum	0	0
Maximum	37	29
Average	4.6	3.2
Median	3.0	1.0

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➤ **Pass Stakeholders Perspectives**

The perspectives of family/parents, county staff, and county partners are being gathered to inform the analyses of results.

➤ **Next Steps for Ventura County**

1. Following PASS parents for one year to track impact over time.
2. Expanding PASS to all parents in child welfare, not just FR parents.
3. Planning to address AOD capacity and thereby the Medicaid priority population rules.
4. Assessing and maximizing the availability of trauma informed, quality of treatment services, as well as coordination of care.
5. Adapting PASS approach to expedite access to specialty mental health services for children and youth. (Ventura County plans to submit a proposal to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Oversight and Accountability Commission for catalytic funding through Innovation MHSA funding.)
6. Revising business processes to ensure smoother transitions between different staff within CFS and between CFS with VCBH and Beacon.
7. Coordination with IT to automate CFS record keeping, whenever possible, and easier data collection technology for staff to reduce collection, monitoring and analysis burden.

➤ **Cross-Systems Coordination observations for Consideration by the Child Welfare Council**

1. Multi-agency collaboration is critical for Priority Access
2. Build deeper integration with Judicial Partners
3. Identify and strategize how to address barriers to communication
4. Coordinate with the healthcare eligibility process as part of PASS.

Concluding remarks from Judy Webber

The opportunity to participate in the PASS beta test afforded Ventura County's Human Services Agency and Behavioral Health Department the opportunity to put into action a more robust system of care for parents involved in the child welfare system. Prior to implementing PASS families were reliant on existing contracts which did not always address the trauma that parents had experienced as children or as adults. Through PASS parents in reunification were offered priority access to a therapeutic experience that was for many of these parents the first time they have been able engage in treatment for themselves. This beta test operationalized our commitment to serving the entire family and the rejection of treatment focused on the child only.

DISCUSSION

Justice Raye thanked Ms. Webber for her informative presentation and called for comments and questions from Council members. Ken Berrick observed that this project could be included as a “best practices” model for collaboration. Carroll Schroder asked about the possibilities for setting up a comparison group of families who did with families who did not get Priority Access. Daniel Webster suggested that one way to do this would be to compare re-entry rates for parents who received PASS versus those who did not, and another measure could be length of time to reunification for each group.

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Kathy Icenhower shared that in Los Angeles County used to have a practice which allowed for prevention services to start at the point the Department of Children and Family Services filed a Dependency petition, and, if successful, the petition could be pulled; USC Professor Jacquelyn McCrosky published an article on this approach to priority access. It was also noted that New York City has a “pre-adjudication involvement model” which is similar to the one previously in use in Los Angeles.

Frank Mecca stated that the PASS project would like to streamline other services, i.e., housing, workforce, and corrections that parents often need to achieve reunification goals, but, unlike behavioral health services, these services are not entitlements, and therefore displacement becomes an issue. Patrick Gardner responded by suggesting that a legal argument could be made that parents had a right to services needed to effect reunification.

Leah Davis reminded Council members that Parent Partners help parents understand the Court Dependency process and the importance of gaining access to services in their case plans. Secretary Dooley raised a question regarding the advisability of having parents counsel represented on the Council. The conversation concluded with a plug for family therapy and engaging managed care as a participant in the PASS process.

VII. Information item: California Youth Connection Grant from the Mental Health Services Act

Secretary Dooley stated that she was delighted to introduce our next presenter, Dr. Haydée Cuza, the newly appointed Executive Director of the California Youth Connection. She gave the following brief highlights of Haydée’s background:

- Haydée has an unwavering passion for youth-led advocacy, her commitment to this work is steered by her lived experiences as a former homeless and foster youth, mother, grandmother, and well as her jobs.
- Haydée previously served as Executive Director of PEERS and Youth in Mind, both peer-run mental health organizations.
- She also worked as a Social Scientist and Technical Assistance Specialist for federally funded workforce development programs, nonprofits, and for profit organizations.
- She also served as Program Director for a Youth Advocate Program in Alameda County and the Southern Region Policy Coordinator for the California Youth Connection.
- And – this is really impressive – at the age of 16, while in foster care, Haydée was a founding member of California Youth Connection (CYC) in Los Angeles County.

Haydée directed Council member’s attention to a grant announcement in their meeting packets, which stated that the California Youth Connection and its partners – Youth In Mind, Young Minds Advocacy, and VOICES – have launched a joint effort to facilitate the direct engagement of transition aged youth (TAY) ages 16–25 years with California’s state and local mental health systems. Funded by a three-year contract with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), this youth-led collaborative will conduct Outreach, Training, and Advocacy activities at the state and local levels to improve outcomes among TAY. Over the three-year project, youth will lead efforts focused on improving the effectiveness of services and supports, reducing stigma, and increasing equity through:

- Community engagement and education campaigns
- Training for TAY and other community stakeholders
- Local and statewide advocacy

California’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), approved by voters in 2004, plays a major role in funding innovative mental health services, mental health treatment, prevention and early intervention,

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education and training to people of all ages affected by mental illness throughout the state. MHSOAC oversees the investment of MHSA dollars, and provides vision and leadership to California's public mental health systems, in collaboration with clients, their families, and underserved communities. The act requires that MHSOAC utilize transparent and collaborative processes to determine the mental health needs, priorities, and services for California mental health consumers – contracting with CYC and its partners ensures that these values are upheld for TAY.

The grant announcement provided the following information regarding the partners in the project:

- **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide nonprofit organization comprised entirely of youth ages 14–24 with direct experience of our state's foster care, mental health, and juvenile justice systems. CYC facilitates youth-led organizing, education, and advocacy, providing a transformational experience of community and individual empowerment. www.calyouthconn.org
- **Youth In Mind (YIM)** is a peer-run, California-based nonprofit changing the lives of young people, 12–28, impacted by mental health through education, advocacy and collaboration. Youth In Mind members participate in multiple levels of leadership and advocacy, including member leadership summits, mental health conferences, and local advocacy activities with the purpose of promoting positive change through authentic youth engagement. www.yimcal.org
- **Young Minds Advocacy (YMA)** is a nonprofit organization founded to address the number one health issue facing young people and their families—unmet mental health needs. Using a blend of policy research and advocacy, impact litigation, and strategic communications, YMA works to change attitudes towards mental illness and break down barriers to quality mental healthcare for young people and their families. www.ymadvocacy.org
- **VOICES** brings together more than 40 partnering agencies to provide housing, education, employment and wellness services to transitioning youth, ages 16–24. Created and run by youth, each year VOICES serves more than 1,500 youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care, mental health, and juvenile justice settings. www.voicesyouthcenter.org

Secretary Dooley thanked Haydée for the informative presentation and wished the project participants well as they embarked on activities to implement the grant.

VIII. Committee and Task Force Updates

Secretary Dooley called on Committee and Task Force Co-Chairs who provided the following status reports:

▪ **Prevention/Early Intervention Committee-Statewide Citizen Review Panel (PEI/CRP)**

Kathy Icenhower directed Council members to the draft document titled, "Framework for Child Welfare Prevention Practice," in their meeting packets. The framework incorporates six models and philosophies of prevention practice that are in current use across the country and generally recognized to have significant positive impact on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as family preservation and family reunification. She announced that this document would be presented at the March 1, 2017 meeting as an action item.

▪ **Permanency Committee**

Carroll Schroeder shared that the Committee was gathering data from Chapin Hall to inform its work. It continues to monitor progress of counties who have implemented drug courts under the leadership of Judges Len Edwards and Elizabeth Lee. It is also partnering with the Child Development and Successful

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Youth Transitions Committee on a project aimed at improving services to runaway and homeless youth, with the goal of getting them permanent families.

▪ **Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee**

Rochelle Trochtenberg and Gordon Jackson reported that the Committee is focusing on four areas:

- The Education Work Group is focusing on issues related to implementation of the Education Rights Holder legislation by gathering information from experts from providers, caregivers and youth and exploring how CWS/CMS can include information on Education Rights Holders. Next steps are to compile and analyze information and recommend opportunities to improve ability of Education Rights Holders to support educational achievement of youth in foster care.
- The Housing/Runaway and Homeless Youth Work Group is partnering with the Permanency Committee to develop a proposed model for multisystem response to runaway and homeless youth in the foster care system and will be producing a report on findings and recommendations.
- The Supporting Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care Work Group is exploring how child welfare systems can better support and promote healthy sexual development of foster youth. The work group members participated on stakeholder groups set up by the Community Care Licensing Division and Child and Family Services Division within the California Department of Social Services, which has now released the following two All-County Information Notices: (1) Reproductive and Sexual Health Care and Related Rights for Youth and Non-Minor Dependents in Foster Care, and (2) California's Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy for Youth and Non-Minor Dependents in Foster Care.
- The Psychotropic Medications Work Group met by conference call to discuss next steps, including inviting experts to speak to the CDSYT Committee, studying effectiveness of Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), reaching out to partners to gather and analyze data regarding current mental health practices, and exploring opportunities to create a "data home" for mental health data.

▪ **Data Linkages and Information Sharing Committee**

The Data Linkage and Information Sharing (DLIS) Committee focused on working towards data interoperability and integration across a number of child serving agencies. Most recently, Ventura County demonstrated their Foster Health Link system that caseworkers and caregivers can access which integrates children's medical records directly from health providers. CDSS also shared their analysis of linkages between the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System and CalFresh recipient data to examine former foster youth and non-minor dependents who are participating in the CalFresh program.

Additionally, the DLIS Committee has led smaller workgroups to discuss revisions to the Statement of Information Sharing, Data Standardization and Interoperability document which outlines an inclusive, integrated, interoperable state and local information technology strategy. Upcoming DLIS meetings will include a cross-system examination of vulnerable youth served by homeless services with a history of child protective service involvement. In addition, a Bay Area county-to-county population flow analysis will be shared along with information on connecting youth placed out of county to Trauma-Informed Care. Moving forward, the DLIS Committee will continue to offer a forum to discuss successful data linkages and information sharing efforts in California and in other jurisdictions across the country.

▪ **Priority Access to Services and Supports Task Force (PASS)**

Please see the discussion of this topic as part of the Child Welfare Council meeting.

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▪ **Out-of-County Mental Health Task Force**

Karen Baylor shared that the California Alliance for Child and Family Services had hosted a celebration event to honor the passage of AB 1299 where it was noted that the challenges of developing the legislation would be surpassed by the challenges in implementation. The California Department of Health Care Services/Behavioral Health Division will be convening a group in January to gain guidance in this effort.

▪ **Ending Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Action Team**

Leslie Heimov announced that the CSEC Action Team is dedicating a significant portion of its December meeting to tackling the issue of group home cell phone policies. The CSEC Advisory Board will offer some initial thoughts on the subject before leading us in a larger group conversation. Next, the CDSS Child Trafficking Response Unit will present on significant data trends emerging from the 35 counties participating in the CSEC Program. They will end the meeting by looking back on 2016, recognizing both our significant accomplishments as well as the major shifts in state policy, such as now in California:

- No child can be arrested for prostitution (SB 1322) and CSEC must be reported as child abuse
- 60%+ of counties are developing local, innovative, and multidisciplinary approaches to serving CSEC and at-risk children
- Child Welfare and Probation in all 58 counties must identify, serve, and document CSEC and at-risk children in CWS/CMS – and also provide relevant training to social workers and probation officers

The CSEC Action Team has - and will continue - to play a leading role in improving California's response to this population. Two of its major accomplishments:

- The CSEC Action Team's *Revised MOU Template* guides counties in meeting all relevant CSEC policy requirements. CDSS published and distributed this latest resource on November 23rd. This updated version includes new federal requirements, social worker / probation officer cheat sheets, and tailored hints to guide users through their own policy development process. Find it here: tinyurl.com/csecmou16
- Formed in June, the groundbreaking survivor Advisory Board offers substantive leadership and policy input to the CSEC Action Team. Members have provided valuable feedback on such projects as: the SB 794 Missing Youth Debrief and Safety and Supports Plan; CSE-IT updates; cell phone policies at group homes; and more. The Advisory Board serves as a critical resource to counties as they develop their own CSEC policies and practices. For more information, contact elaferriere@youthlaw.org

IX. Public Comment and Adjournment to Committee Meetings

Secretary Dooley asked for comments from members of the public. Laurie Kappe, Director of the California Co-Investment Partnership, announced the organization's latest publication titled, "California Child Welfare Policy: What's New and Looking Forward" and passed out copies to Council members. The publication documents recent legislative advancements and makes policy recommendations for the future.

There being no further comments, Secretary Dooley and Justice Raye thanked Council members and the public for their participation and adjourned the meeting.