

EXAMPLE

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE QUARTERLY REPORT TEMPLATE

Committee or Task Force Name: Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions (CDSYT)

Council Meeting Date: September 2, 2015

Topic/Brief Description	Status	Next Steps
<p><u>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Expansion for Former Foster Youth:</u> Information item regarding a proposed change to the federal EITC policy that would expand eligibility to former foster youth ages 18 – 25 as a strategy for averting homelessness, reducing poverty, and increasing labor market participation.</p>	<p>The CDSYT Committee heard a presentation on the topic at its June 3, 2015 meeting and is sharing the information with the full Council on September 2, 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track discussions and hearings on the proposed policy. ▪ Update full Council as appropriate.
<p><u>Education Work Group:</u> Focus on school stability issues and defining best practices for ensuring appropriate decision-making by foster youth’s Education Rights Holders and the role of other stakeholders in making and implementing the Education Rights Holder’s “best interest” determination.</p>	<p>Developing work plan and timetable; gathering materials on the topic; exploring how CWS/CMS can include information on Education Rights Holders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize work plan and begin implementation. ▪ Track progress and update full Council as appropriate.
<p><u>Housing Work Group:</u> Exploration of federal, state and local housing resources that could be made available to youth formerly in foster care; partnering with the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes to learn about resources available through the state’s Transitional Housing Programs administered by the California Department of Social Services.</p>	<p>Met with Department of Housing and Community Development to learn about publicly funded housing resources; presenter from the John Burton Foundation to participate in CDSYT Committee meeting on September 2, 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to study housing issues and resources. ▪ Participate on monthly webinars hosted by the John Burton Foundation; ▪ Update full Council as appropriate.

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<p><u>Supporting Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care Work Group</u>: Exploration of how child welfare systems can better support and promote healthy sexual development of foster youth. This topic stemmed directly from the personal stories, statements, and concerns expressed by former foster youth regarding the barriers they have experienced within the current system, and the lack of policies and practices to address young people’s healthy sexual development. Hosted a day-long gathering devoted to exploring issues and creating recommendations that will make meaningful improvements in our ability to support youth’s healthy sexual development. The following themes emerged as areas for improvement: self-esteem; sex, dating and masturbation; ability of caregivers to support the sexual orientation, gender identity and expression of youth in foster care; youth who are parents; and confidentiality. Compiled findings from the gathering into a Book of Proceedings and submitted a report to the Council that proposed to incorporate recommendations into existing policies and practices.</p>	<p>Working with the Community Care Licensing Division and Child and Family Services Division within the California Department of Social Services to refine and implement the recommendations of the report; invited to present a workshop at the California Foster Parent Conference in October 2015;” compiling a resource directory of publications and training opportunities that address the topic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to work with Community Care Licensing on clarifying “prudent parent” standard and other regulations. ▪ Will join relevant Stakeholder Groups to be formed by CDSS for implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform initiative. ▪ Prepare presentation for the Foster Parent Conference. ▪ Finalize resource directory for distribution to stakeholders.
<p><u>Psychotropic Medications Work Group</u>: Engaged in reviewing and monitoring the work of the Quality Improvement Project – a collaborative effort led by the California Department of Health Care Services in collaboration with providers, advocates and stakeholders – to ensure appropriate, timely, safe use of psychotropic medications by foster children.</p>	<p>Three new products were developed by the QIP with Work Group members participating in the process: (1) California Guidelines for the Use of Psychotropic Medications for Children and Youth in Foster Care; (2) Foster Youth Bill of Rights; and (3) Questions to Ask.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor implementation of the products.