

**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: December 9, 2015

Topic/Brief Description	Status	Next Steps
<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.
<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</p>	<p>Working with the Community Care Licensing Division and Child and Family Services Division within the California Department of Social Services to provide input to regulations under development to implement the newly revised “Responsible and Prudent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to work with Community Care Licensing to provide input on Regulations for implementing the Responsible and Prudent Parent Standard. ▪ Will join relevant

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<p>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>Parenting Standard” for foster parents and Short-Term Residential Treatment providers.</p> <p>Preparing an issue brief that focuses on training Resource Parents on supporting healthy sexual development of LGBTQ foster youth and incorporating the Foster Youth Bill of Rights into training materials.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Groups to be formed by CDSS for implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform initiative.</p>
<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.
<p><u>Priority Employment Work Group</u>: Exploring how the Santa Clara County model for assigning priority status to former foster youth seeking employment with the County can be replicated in other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Issue brief to be presented at the Committee meeting on December 9, 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine interest in and resources for moving forward to develop a problem description and rationale for the the proposed solution.