

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Discussion Highlights
December 4, 2017

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Justice Raye called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members and visitors. He acknowledged the California Department of Social Services for their hospitality and willingness to host the Council for the meeting in Sacramento. Justice Raye then asked Council Members to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of the September 6 Discussion Highlights (Action Item)

Secretary Dooley asked for comments or suggested revisions to the September 6, 2017 Child Welfare Council Discussion Highlights. There being none, they were approved on a consensus vote.

III. Foster Youth Priority Employment Model Policy Framework (Action Item)

Justice Raye introduced Rochelle Trochtenberg, Gordon Jackson, David Ambroz, and Judge Leonard Edwards to present on the Foster Youth Priority Employment Model Policy Framework. The Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee has been focusing on the employment crisis for foster youth and has compiled a set of recommendations around best practices at the county and state level. Counties across California can increase access to workforce development and employment opportunities for current and former foster youth by hiring eligible, current or former foster youth into open entry-level jobs that are already available. Various state and local agencies have successfully implemented policies to prioritize employing foster youth; the state of Texas and many counties within California including Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and others. Other practices such as internships have increased employment amongst this population. Within the private sector, the iFoster jobs program works directly with current and former foster youth to seek and maintain meaningful employment, in addition to working directly with employers to provide a pipeline of potential hires. The best practices document can be found online, [here](#). There being no changes offered, the document was approved on a consensus vote.

IV. Child Welfare Digital Services Project (Information Item)

Secretary Dooley introduce Tony Fortenberry to provide an update on the Child Welfare Digital Services Project. Mr. Fortenberry noted that the agile approach to software design and development adopted in November 2015 has fundamentally changed how the Child Welfare Services-California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) Project, will approach its goal of ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of California's children. Rather than procuring a single monolithic, one-time solution, we will instead develop and integrate a suite of digital services through which we can deliver continually improving support and assistance, that will aid state and county workers to effectively engage and assist children and families.

Mr. Fortenberry noted that they have released the updated Project Roadmap that details digital service functionality roll out schedule for Intake, CALS (Licensing) and Case Management. This Roadmap covers a 15-month window of project releases, starting in July 2017 through September 2018 and provides a logical model illustrating general timeframes, which may shift due to agile development priorities. Snapshot is the first digital service tool to be rolled out as a part of the

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Project Roadmap. For more information regarding the implementation of the Child Welfare Digital Services, please visit their webpage, [here](#).

V. Dual-Status Youth Data Standards Workgroup Update (Information Item)

Justice Raye introduced Kevin Gains to provide an update on the dual-status youth data standards workgroup being convened pursuant to AB 1911 (Eggman; Statutes of 2016, Chapter 637). The Judicial Council convened the working group that included stakeholders from probation, social services at the state and county level, attorneys, policy advocates, and education officials. As set forth in AB 1911, the working group was charged with crafting recommendations for:

- A common identifier for counties to use to reconcile data across child welfare and juvenile justice systems statewide;
- Standardized definitions for terms related to the populations of youth involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system;
- Identified and defined outcomes for counties to track youth involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system;
- Established baselines and goals for these identified and defined outcomes;
- An assessment as to the costs and benefits associated with requiring all counties to implement the working group’s recommendations; and
- An assessment of whether a single technology system is needed to track youth in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system.

Over the course of a year, the working group met several times, both in person and by conference call, conducted extensive research, and considered input from staff of the Office of System Integration, the Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Digital Services, the Department of Justice, the Board of State and Community Corrections, the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust, technology experts, and other stakeholders to arrive at recommendations. Their complete Report to the Legislature, with their recommendations, can be found online, [here](#).

VI. Presentation on FosterMore.org (Information Item)

Secretary Dooley introduced David Ambroz to present on the FosterMore.org initiative. FosterMore is a coalition of not for profit organizations and foundations working to raise awareness of the youth in America’s foster care system. FosterMore shines a light on the amazing potential of kids and families in the foster care system, and empowers all foster kids to reach their dreams through education. FosterMore encourages all of us to play a part in ensuring that foster youth receive the support, nurturing, and guidance they need to succeed in life. Mr. Ambroz showed the Council a number of videos that can be found online, [here](#).

VII. Public Comment and Adjournment to Committee Meetings

Secretary Dooley and Justice Raye thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.