

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

June 1, 2022

Meeting Discussion Highlights

Present: Justice Laurie Earl, Co-Chair; Mark Ghaly, Co-Chair; Nancy Bargmann; Dana Blackwell; Stacy Boulware Eurie; Sheila Boxley; Daniel Calabretta; Ebony Chambers; Roger DeLeon; Leonard Edwards; Janay Eustace; Bob Friend; Leticia Galyean; Leslie Heimov; Kathryn Icenhower; Kimberley Johnson; Jim Kooler; Sharon Lawrence; Katherine Lucero; Michael Olenick; Amy Price; Cheryl Rave; Trent Rohrer; Cherie Schroeder; Shawna Schwarz; Cathy Senderling; Chris Stoner-Mertz; Lindsay Tornatore; Daniel Webster; Jevon Wilkes; Steve Zimmer.

Absent: Heather Bowlds; Isaac Bryan, Sanja, Bugay; Larry Fluharty; Patrick Gardner; Gail Gronert; Martin Hoshino; Melissa Hurtado; Diane Iglesias; Deborah Kelch; Karen Larsen; Brian Maienschein; Dan Prince; Vaneisha Reed; Susan Rubio; Sarah Tyson; Leecia Welch; Christine Williams.

Call to Order and Introductions (Sixth Zoom Mtg for CWC)

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Mark Ghaly, Co-Chair of the Child Welfare Council. He started the meeting by introducing the new co-chair Laurie Earl, Associate Justice, Third District Court of Appeal. Secretary Ghaly thanked Justice Vance Raye for his decade of amazing leadership and legacy for putting Californians first. He was given a round of applause for his contribution to the Child Welfare Council. Secretary Ghaly then welcomed Justice Earl as his co-chair and thanked her for taking over as he will only be attending a portion of the meeting due to a conflict and that Director Kim Johnson will be taking over for him as Co-Chair for the remainder of the meeting. He introduced and welcomed new members to the council: Judge Daniel Calabretta, Presiding Juvenile Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County; Gail Gronert, Director of Strategic Initiatives, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California; Steve Zimmer, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education

Secretary Ghaly mentioned because of the hybrid format of the meeting, official quorum was not achieved and there will be no voting of action items at this meeting.

I. Secretary Ghaly Priority Focus Discussion (Informational Item)

Secretary Ghaly wanted to revisit the discussion from the previous meeting on how the council should move forward as a whole and honoring the role of the Steering Committee and the history of the Council. He shared a few thoughts regarding the continuation of the Steering Committee as an important body and process to help set the agendas, making sure the Council reveals a collaborative and effective forum where discussion and conversations can occur,

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

making sure council members' time investment meets the tenure of the commitment of serving as council members. He then opens the meeting to any comments from the Council members.

Katherine Lucero, Director, Office of Youth and Community Restoration stated that she wanted to make sure that the decisions and deliverables of the Council would be infused with the juvenile justice youth lens as well as the child welfare youth lens specifically the cross-over youth which in some jurisdictions is significant. Director Lucero provides closing remarks for a focus toward upstream solutions for both juvenile justice and child welfare youth.

II. State Budget Considerations (Informational Item)

Secretary Ghaly calls on Kim Johnson, Director, California Department of Social Services and Jim Kooler, Assistant Deputy Director, California Department of Health Care Services to assist with presenting on state budget considerations including important investments that have been made and recommended as part of the May Revision. Director Johnson started by sharing a proposal of \$150 million General Fund and a total fund of \$412 million for a Center for Excellence, Family Finding, Engagement and Support Program. This would be considered as a one time county optional block grant for families to receive support and engagement activities to be expended over 5 years. Secondly, a proposal for \$50 million General Fund annually beginning next year at county welfare agencies to support activities to reduce timelines for processing applications for resource family approval. A proposal for \$4.9 million to increase the period of eligibility for emergency caregiver payments and funding to support incremental increases to that fund, and allow for an extension of up to 180 total days for good cause for those that have been approved as opposed to the 90 days. A \$25 million General Fund proposal to support survivors of commercial sexual exploitation with the prospect of enhancing and expanding the existing pilots in this space and creating an opportunity for a third pilot in the Southern CA region and creating some new targeted training curriculum. A \$10.37 million General Fund to support the short term residential therapeutic program providers to transition to other models that will support the continuum of care (the IMD determination that will occur with DHCS by the end of the calendar year). In the Child welfare space, a \$906,000 funding to back fill any loss of Title IV-E funding for placements in new STRTP's that are in the process of becoming accredited, this is Part of the FFPSA implementation.

Dr. Jim Kooler, on behalf of Department of Health Care Services Director Michelle Baass, shared proposals focused on the opioid response. Building on the Governor's Budget and the opioid response investment The May Revision will include a one time \$41.8 million of opioid settlement funds to be distributed for substance use disorder provider workforce training, naloxone distribution, and a public awareness campaign.

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Secretary Ghaly also shared a proposal related to Medi-Cal investments. \$100 million that will go to child practices across the state to begin to transform the practices with regards to quality, equity, and social drivers.

Various members stated their gratitude for the proposals and State funds being allocated to the important work of the Council.

III. Deepening Understanding of Family Finding and Engagement (Informational Item)

Justice Earl calls on Bob Friend, Director, National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness, Seneca Agencies to provide a presentation on deepening the understanding of “family finding and engagement.”

This presentation focused on the rapid shift from model designed to protect children from their families to one that helps families keep their children safe.

[View the full presentation.](#)

IV. Prevention – Economic Stability and Concrete Supports (Information Item)

Justice Earl calls on Clare Anderson, Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to present on Economic Stability and Concrete Supports

This presentation focused on economic and concrete supports and the use of those as a prevention strategy to reduce child welfare system involvements and child maltreatment.

[View the full presentation.](#)

Director Kim Johnson commented on the previous presentation, stating that there were some state budget proposals that were not previously discussed that are furthering some of the investments that were referred to and encouraged in this presentation. Some of the investments are being implemented in the current year’s budget. As an example, California’s TANF Program/CalWORKS support is being offered to keep the supports on when the child is removed from the family participating in TANF so they can have a better position to reunify. Director Johnson also highlighted that the Guaranteed Income Pilot Proposal is being released in the month of June. This is being piloted to provide an opportunity to look at learning from what it means to have that unconditional cash support focused on former foster youth and pregnant individuals.

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Council Member Dana Blackwell asked during the presentation if the benefit and impact of inserting greater supports to families and less rates of entry/substantiation reports, was proportional across race and ethnicity? Clare Anderson replied that they are currently going back to each of the studies to look at the extent to which they disaggregated their data by race because it is such an important question.

V. Committee and Task Force Updates

Justice Earl called on the co-chairs of the committees and task forces for updates, which primarily focused on what would be discussed at the afternoon meetings:

- **Prevention and Early Intervention – Kathy Icenhower and David Swanson Hollinger:** Continuing to work with CDSS to provide recommendations for the Family First Plan. There will be a guest speaker from Connecticut who is the Director of Clinical and Behavioral Health Division, Connecticut Department of Child and Family Services. She is the co-lead for their State planning for FFPSA.
- **Permanency – Bob Friend and Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.):** Angie Schwartz from CDSS will be the speaker at the session which following this meeting. Discussing and looking more closely at Bob’s earlier presentation referring to the May Revise.
- **Data Linkages and Information Sharing –Daniel Webster and Alicia Sandoval:** Follow up on the presentation from the last Council meeting on Data Workgroup on Substance Use Disorder in Child Welfare Services Data collection and reporting ideas with an update from former Director of Napa Social Services. Followed by a discussion with the Executive Director CA Policy Laws around the amendment to the Information Practices Act that is currently being considered and the data sharing impact of that legislation.
- **CSEC Action Team – Leslie Heimov and Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie:** Starting the meeting by acknowledging Debra Pembrock’s passing by recognizing her contribution through the action team to the advisory board, her mentorship of survivors and her engagement in this space for many years. The committee will be announcing and sending a reminder of the training on June 7th regarding supporting survivors of sexual violence. The trainer will be providing additional guidance on how to support youth who are impacted by commercial sexual exploitation who are currently pregnant or parenting. The substance of the meeting this afternoon will focus on Native American history and the impact of Native American treatment both in the state and county and how that continues to impact the youth of today. An advisory board member will be presenting on how historical events have impacted her and other youth who are similarly situated.
- **Behavioral Health Committee – Chris Stoner-Mertz and Karen Larsen:** This committee will be hearing more on the Mental Health Services Oversight Committee’s new Children’s Subcommittee from Toby Ewing and making sure the committees are working in tandem. They will be reviewing policy recommendations and starting to think about developing some system goals and outcomes that can be used to further the efforts of CYBHI.

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

- **Office of Youth & Community Restoration—Hon. Katherine Lucero:** This committee has selected three topics to discuss further and develop a deliverable. The three topics that were chosen are related to the purpose and mission of this committee which is to reduce recidivism; decrease juvenile detention and increase positive youth development. Those three topics were selected by majority vote and are: focusing on higher education and career training for secure track youth; expanding and integrating CBO capacity for the secure track youth continuum of care; focusing on step downs which means youth stepping out of restrictive placements to least restrictive placements and alternative to incarceration. This afternoon's focus will be on higher education and career training for secure track youth and there will be a number of presentations that will be made by both committee members and outside experts.
- **Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee- Jevon Wilkes and Janay Eustace:** No meeting will take place this afternoon. The meeting will be held before the next Council meeting in September. The Committee is still under development.

Director Johnson thanked the Committee chairs for their reports.

VII. Public Comment and Adjournment to Committee Meetings

Justice Earl asked for any comments from the members of the public and notes that conference lines and/or Zoom line numbers and links for the afternoon committee meetings are on the agenda and the CalHHS website. Nick Picinich mentioned that for public comment there will be no access to audio but there will be access to the chat function and they will read those as they come in. Director Johnson notes that the next meetings for the rest of the calendar year and will be hybrid with the next meeting being held in Sacramento on September 7th.

Justice Earl thanks everyone for their participation in today's meeting and adjourned the meeting.