

#### **IV. Organizational Structure**

##### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee shall include ~~be comprised of~~ one member from each of the Council's committees and action teams. Members of the Steering Committee shall also be members of the Council. Each committee and action team shall select one of its members, to represent and speak on behalf of the committee or action team, to serve on the Steering Committee, making every effort to ensure that members collectively represent the following sectors of the community: (1) Those with lived experience in the child welfare system, including minors, parents, and caregivers; (2) Judges and attorneys with past or current experience working with the child welfare system; (3) Service providers and program leaders with experience working with foster youth in multiple settings; (4) Other constituencies needing representation as identified by Steering Committee members. Co-Chairs of the Council may appoint additional Council members to the Steering Committee to ensure representation of these sectors of the community, but the Steering Committee shall be limited to a total of ~~10~~ 11 members.

Members shall serve terms of three consecutive years, and terms shall have staggered start and end dates to preserve Steering Committee experience and knowledge transfer. Members must commit to active participation in the Steering Committee, including attendance at Steering Committee meetings. Excessive or prolonged absences from Steering Committee meetings (lack of participation in three (3) sequential monthly Steering Committee meetings and/or lack of input to Council staff regarding the content of three (3) sequential monthly Steering Committees meetings if unable to attend) may result in a request from Council Co-Chairs to resign from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will: (1) work with Council staff to advise the Co-Chairs and members about issues and processes that should be addressed; (2) be involved in the development of Council meeting agendas; and (3) give input about the Operations Manual. To support the work of the Council as a whole, members of the Steering Committee should work with one another, Council members, and Council staff to identify and support goals that are shared by committees and action teams. Steering Committee members should work to ensure that committees and action teams coordinate efforts to produce meaningful and effective recommendations and input to the Council.