



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period of **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**, to be released in **November 2023**, will feature highlights on each committee and task force of the Council. Please complete the following as a draft to review with your group for their input and confirmation at the **December 2022** meeting and return your completed template to Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov no later than **November 30, 2022**.

July 2021 through June 2022 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 21-22.

Concerns or Challenges: Describe any issues that you feel need the Council's attention in order to maximize opportunities and address barriers to the work of the Council.

2022 – 2023 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee or task force's goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	Permanency Committee
Purpose	Identify and remove barriers, along with recommending best practices to achieve speedy permanency for all children in out of home care.
July 2021 through June 2022 Activities and Accomplishments	<p>Co-Chair Bob Friend was appointed to the full Council on November 4, 2021.</p> <p>Committee chairs have presented to the full Council on 9/8/2021 to alert the Council of two opportunities funded by the Judicial Council to support permanency via training and plan development between 2021-2023. Also made presented and held a brief discussion to update the Council on how systemic leadership alignment is a necessary step to the successful implementation of any family finding effort, and that systemic leaders must provide a full commitment to shifting the system from one that protects children from their families to one that supports families to keep their children safe.</p> <p>Chairs also presented to the full Council on June 1, 2022 on "Deepening the Understanding of Family Finding and Engagement", furthering the previous presentations and discussions while linking with information provided by Angie Schwartz about the potential establishment of the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support.</p>

Committee/ Task Force Name	Permanency Committee
	<p>Hosted a presentation and conversation on 9/7/2021 with retired Judge Mike Nash to update the committee on progress re: front end family finding in Los Angeles County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effort has expanded to 11 of the 20 offices as of this report, and over 80% of the 10,000 new referrals are living with family/connections as a result of the program, including an increase in children living with non-offending parents with no court oversight. Three important aspects of the program are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family finding at the front end to identify placement relatives. ○ Important aspect of program is to not only engage placement relatives, but also to engage non-placement relatives to build greater support around the child. ○ What can the agency do to support the family through the process? • Other key findings of the effort include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Studies demonstrating that there has been a change in the culture of prioritizing relative placement over “stranger” placements. A second study demonstrated that there has been an increase in adoption and guardianships. ○ Child and Family Team meetings are one of the ways the agency can identify needed supports for the youth and family. ○ Expansion to the remaining 9 offices is likely to move more quickly than the previous implementations due to the 9 offices knowing about the work being done in the 11 other offices. ○ Leadership buy-in is key to success. • Committee conducted (and recorded) a presentation on March 2, 2022 by Connect our Kids leaders Jennifer Jacobs & Jessica Stern, along with Clif Venable from SenecaSearch, (who has conducted more public data searches than any person in the United States since the practice was instituted in 2000), to demonstrate how the free platform Connect our Kids provides to , while demonstrating how to integrate search results that its own platform or other search efforts provide. • Committee welcomed Angie Schwartz on June 1, 2022 to provide more information about the pending legislation and budget negotiations to establish the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support.
Concerns or Challenges	Awaiting to find out which Council members will be assigned to the Permanency committee to help grow our participation. Attendance has ebbs and flows, and has been drained of some members due to the

Committee/ Task Force Name	Permanency Committee
	<p>establishment of other committees, while some council members do not regularly attend committees.</p> <p>Health concerns still limit in person participation to CWC meetings, which limits relationship development.</p>
2022 - 2023 Goals/Objectives	<p>Support the establishment and development of the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support.</p> <p>Make recommendations to CEF re: installation and implementation based on results and findings of other efforts, especially re: the importance of leadership buy-in and adaptive leadership responsibilities before employing technical leadership changes.</p> <p>Continue to push for more family inclusion in Child and Family Team meetings, given the less than satisfactory results of CDSS data.</p>