



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**, will feature highlights on the work of the Council and its committees. Please use this template to write your committee report and submit it to Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov no later than **November 17, 2023**.

Readers may not be familiar with acronyms and abbreviations. Please fully write out acronyms and abbreviations the first time you use them and be consistent in using the same acronym or abbreviation throughout the rest of the report.

Readers may not be familiar with policies, organizations, or programs that are well known to your committee. Please consider including brief explanations so readers can better understand your report.

July 2022 through June 2023 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 2022-23.

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

2023 – 2024 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee's goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	Data Linkages and Information Sharing Committee (acronym DLIS)
Purpose	The DLIS supports the efforts of public child welfare and other committees of the Child Welfare Council toward integrating information across child-serving agencies (e.g., child welfare, health care services, education, vital statistics, juvenile justice, etc.). The goal of these cross-system data is to better inform policy and practice at the individual and systems levels. The DLIS also supports development of tools that measure outcomes across systems at the state and local levels. These data are critical for guiding continuous quality improvements in child welfare services that adapt to the multiple and changing needs of children, families, and caregivers.
July 2022 through June 2023 Activities and Accomplishments	The DLIS Committee achieved a milestone in its collaboration with a multi-county consortium and other stakeholders in a workgroup to examine the status of substance use disorder (acronym SUD) data collection, reporting and application in child welfare services; the DLIS and SUD data workgroup presented results and recommendations for action and system improvement which were endorsed by the Council at the December 2022 meeting.

Committee Co-chair, Dr. Daniel Webster provided data support and co-presented with members of the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee on their “Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting” action item and recommendations to the Council in March 2023.

DLIS members Dr. Bridgette Lery, and Dr. Daniel Webster were Principal Investigators in the statewide evaluation examining the impact of SB 855 on service provision for CSEC youth. The study was completed in 2023, and members of the evaluation team have presented findings at venues across the state, and at national and international conferences (e.g., Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect). Further, committee members continued to provide data expertise support to the CSEC Action Team, and to public child welfare partners such as the Dream Unit at LA DCFS.

DLIS members participated in national workgroups such as the Child Welfare Study to Enhance Equity with Data (CW SEED) project, and the Data Leaders Group sponsored by Casey Family Programs to discuss issues related to linkages and application of administrative data.

The committee provided updates on national, state, and local data sharing initiatives as well as significant news related to the development and planned deployment of the new statewide child welfare administrative data collection system; and acted as a forum for successful data linkages and information sharing efforts to be presented, discussed, and disseminated.

Key topics discussed by the Committee during the past year included: Continued updates from the data workgroup examining issues related to data collection and reporting of substance use disorder in child welfare services; ongoing development, implementation and timeline issues related to the California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES); a presentation by colleagues from the California Department of Education on “A New DataQuest Report” to track measures of school stability which is related to learning loss, student mental & behavioral health, school culture and climate, as well as to foster youths’ school of origin rights; a presentation on “Goals, Responsibility, Information, and Process across the Continuum of Care” by Dr. Kate Cordell, President of Opeeka; and a presentation from Dr. Mark Courtney, Director of the CCWIP TAY Research and Evaluation Hub at UC Berkeley, on the Guaranteed Income Pilot Project (GIPP) Study initiated in counties across the state;

Finally, DLIS members had conversations with representatives of the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee, and the Behavioral Health Committee to begin to explore ways that the respective groups could coordinate toward meeting Child Welfare Council priorities.

<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<p>There is awareness at a systems-level between child welfare and other agencies that linked data and other evidence are needed to inform policy and practice efforts; however, a persistent challenge is to implement a reproducible process under an approved governance structure for ongoing data integration (e.g., cross-system data agreements, governance, determining one or more organizations to lead the work, procuring resources and specifying a schedule to routinely execute output, etc.).</p> <p>Also, though not insurmountable, there will be hurdles to overcome in mobilizing data to support the aims of emerging child welfare initiatives. For example, a successful system transition as called for by the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting effort will require data development on several dimensions including: clarifying underlying client needs that are currently obscured by a diffuse ‘general neglect’ category, tracking and matching children and families to available, appropriate community services, as well as specifying and monitoring outcomes as implementation reforms progress.</p>
<p>2023 – 2024 Goals/Objectives</p>	<p>Collaborate with the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee in their continued agenda of transforming child welfare to a “child well-being system” through the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) initiative. The DLIS co-chair will serve on the MRCS statewide task force and will co-chair the MRCS Data Subcommittee.</p> <p>Coordinate with the work of the Behavioral Health Committee toward developing recommendations for data collection, integration, and metrics (e.g., between CWS/CMS and CANS) to support behavioral health needs of youth at risk of involvement and/or in the child welfare system.</p> <p>Provide updates and emerging lessons learned to the committee and to the full Council from the work of the Guaranteed Income Pilot Project evaluation being carried out by the Urban Institute and the CCWIP TAY-Hub at UC Berkeley.</p> <p>Support the efforts led by Professor Emily Putnam-Hornstein and researchers at the Children’s Data Network to work toward routine cross-agency data integration through CalHHS’ Center for Data Insights and Innovation.</p>