



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 in order 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	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 2022 through June 2023 Activities and Accomplishments	<p>Highlights during this term include the development (on an accelerated timeline) of a set of recommendations to the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support, endorsed by the full Council during the December 2022 meeting.</p> <p>The Committee also provided a 30-minute remote presentation to the full Council by Santa Cruz County in which the previous presiding judge, and the two present dependency and juvenile court judges, as well as a representative from Santa Cruz Family and Children’s Services, shared their experiences and progress following a System Alignment meeting that was held by the Judicial Council of California and facilitated by Seneca Family of Agencies’ National Institute for Permanency Family</p>

	<p>Connectedness. This presentation garnered interest and inquiries by other counties to also participate in this process, as well as by the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect in Los Angeles. As stated previously, the Permanency Committee is strongly advocating that establishing systemic leadership alignment is a necessary step to the successful implementation of any kin-first, family-centered approach, 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 for any sustained changes to result.</p> <p>The Committee meetings during this period contained multiple presentations by, and conversations with, the Center for Excellence on the rollout of the Center and their early achievements. We joined OYCR’s committee to learn of the work they are doing with Probation youth during one meeting. We welcomed Mike Nash, retired presiding judge of Los Angeles County and current director of the Office of Child Protection in Los Angeles to provide and update of the Family Finding and Engagement work in Los Angeles. We also welcomed presentations from Orange County (acronym OC) and Santa Clara County (acronym SC) to learn about their permanency work (OC) and their prevention work (SC).</p>
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<p>Although conditions of Council member participation have been established, the committee has not seen any significant new participation. We have not benefitted from any administrative support during this period, as rotations in the Permanency Bureau left the position unfilled, and the Bureau is indicating that it does not have the capacity to lend any further support. Council staff have been alerted to this gap, and the absence of support limits the co-chairs’ ability to effectively engage and communicate with its members, including generation of notes summarizing the meetings.</p> <p>During the year, health concerns, while abating, still limit in person participation, and there have been significant glitches to our ability to hold a remote committee meeting due to wifi challenges within the site.</p>
<p>2023 - 2024 Goals/Objectives</p>	<p>Continue to support the development of the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support, and provide counsel and recommendations as needed.</p> <p>Stay abreast of statewide efforts to establish a kin-first, family-centered practice model.</p> <p>Grow, and report on, efforts to establish systemic alignment in counties as a critical and necessary step towards the culture development into a kin-first, family-centered system that is sustainable.</p> <p>Continue to push for more family inclusion in Child and Family Team meetings, given the less than satisfactory results of the California Department of Social Service (acronym CDSS) data. Create a</p>

	<p>more consistent dialogue with CDSS regarding improvements that can be made in practice to welcome families to Child and Family team meetings, and ensure those meetings actively involve family voices into all plans and decisions affecting their kin.</p>
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