

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH
TRANSITIONS COMMITTEE Meeting Notes – February 2018 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Opening

Rochelle Trochtenberg, Co-Chair, welcomed members and members introduced themselves.

December 2017 minutes approved as written

Members discussed disseminating the Priority Employment paper

Juvenile Restitution Model Policy

Emily Higgs, MSW, Senior Policy Analyst Data, Evaluation and Strategic Initiatives, Seneca Family Agencies

provided background on the Juvenile Restitution Model Policy.

- How do we make restitution more rehabilitative even if it is for just one offender?
- How to we educate judges?

Ms. Higgs advised Seneca is not yet pursuing legislation:

- Could explore developing training for judges and lawyers and families etc.
 - Creative alternatives might set up restitution funds that pay restitution for a child and family contingent on an activity etc.
- *Question:* What is the magnitude of this problem statewide? *Answer:* This would be an important thing to find out in information gathering.

It would be helpful to seek out some ex-judges, sitting judges, and former District Attorneys who would take the lead as educators for judges and attorneys. We would make the case that they should modify the probation requirements. This process right now is costing the counties lots of money. We could back this up with data on how much money is being collected etc. Modifying this issue will not cost the county any money. But getting youth in school and jobs etc would save the county/state a lot of money.

Question: How do you find out how much restitution is owed versus how much is paid?

Answer: This is a good question and something to explore.

- Rochelle Trochenberg: This is a really important cause to take on.
 - How does it fit in our arena? We have to be thoughtful about that. How many young people that were foster youth/crossover youth has this impacted and what are the implications for foster youth? How many dual status young people are being affected by this?
 - How many of these cases of restitution come out of damage done in GH facilities and the act of criminalizing youth. How can we find this data? Is this data accessible in Cws/cms?

- Separate from the legal aspects of this we see young people being charged restitution from damage to Group Homes and foster homes. Is this even an affective model with respect to child development? There is a medical need for youth to be in STRTP's- how therapeutic is it to charge youth for damage?
- We need to look at the child welfare charter and see if we include all probation youth or not.
- Is juvenile court able to tell how many children have been released from probation from finishing their restitution?
- Emily Higgs: A lot of work has been done with Project NOW in Oakland. Maybe restitution is simply an apology letter or working with victim in a volunteer setting- how do restorative justice programs are addressing this?

Committee members will identify next steps for addressing this. There is lots of research to be done. Members will identify opportunities and ways it can apply to foster youth.

Runaway Paper Discussion

Members provided feedback on the update Protocol.

- Staff will send Protocol to members for comments. Due date is 3/16/2018

Work Plan Update and Review

1. Vincent Bartle: Calfresh/food stamps. Proposal: Auto enroll as soon as you become a Non-Minor Dependent- this would assist Foster Youth in not falling through the cracks. Invite Calfresh branch chief to present.
2. Emily Higgs: Mobile response: When youth change placement mobile response will go out- 97% reduction in placement disruption? Has then been an effective model elsewhere. The goal is to promote placement stability and reduce the risk of hospitalization and inpatient treatment for all youth. Counties would use mobile response for these reasons. In the absence of mobile response police and/or ambulance is called. Can link family to more sustainable supports. Really hard to fund this but it very helpful. Rochelle Trochtenberg: We can invite guests to educate members- we can dedicate a lot more time to learn. For now, the use of this on the work plan can be informational. The committee can look at developing a policy for funding etc. Can partner with the Permanency Committee as well.
3. There is a bill to ensure that all FY and youth in the juvenile justice system have access to the internet. How can we fit this into our scope? Add cell phones to this as well? Smart phones or basic cell phone communication?
4. Rochelle Trochtenberg: How do we promote financial literacy for transitioning foster youth?? Social/emotional skills and how to make mistakes more affordable. Some way to have a protocol to assist youth in transitioning. Andrea Ferraro (Pockets Change) is a good contact for this.

5. Juvenile Restitution Model Policy
6. Rochelle Trochtenberg: Model policy to re-purpose shelter care (Crisis nursery crisis child care etc) Care to support child/youth development and wellbeing.
 - o Rearranging things so that counties must pay for this themselves is impossible, so somehow rearranging things so counties get MORE money if they send youth somewhere other than shelters. Gather data on counties who are doing well and give them kudos for this. Have counties report and write what they are doing to get rid of shelters. Vincent Bartle: Summers are not productive for FY- there is a specific time over summer to use shelters a time and place to get all the things done they need (dr appts, dentist, calfresh etc.) Free pass opportunities
7. Runaway and homeless youth (Wrap Up)

Next Steps

- Invite branch chief from CalFresh for the June meeting.
- Possible presentation by Young Minds
- Runaway Youth Wrap Up
- Brainstorm Work Plan

Summary of Follow-Up Items

Item	Action Steps	Point Person
Foster Youth Who Runaway Workgroup	Present to full council in September	Rochelle Trochtenberg Bob Friend Carroll Schroeder
	<i>Action: Follow up call with Chairs after the June Meeting</i>	Staff
Cal Fresh Model Policy	Draft	Vincent Bartle Staff
Next Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite branch chief from Cal Fresh for the June meeting. 2. Possible presentation by Young Minds 3. Runaway youth wrap up 4. Brainstorm Work Plan 	

Participants

Rochelle Trochtenberg, Co-Chair	Andrea Ferrero
Ed Opton	Emily Higgs
Bill Grimm	Vincent Bartle
Smitha Gundavajhala	

