



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL**



March 6, 2019  
Meeting Discussion Highlights

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was convened at 9:48 AM by meeting chairwoman and HHS Undersecretary Michelle Baass. Undersecretary Baass noted Justice Raye's absence due to illness, and welcomed Council Members and visitors. Undersecretary Baass introduced Vaneshia Reed, who has just been appointed to replace David Ambroz as a former foster youth on the council, and Sanja Bugay who has been appointed (along with Trent Rhorer who was not present) to the Council to replace Howard Himes and Lori Cox as members of the Child Welfare Directors Association (CWDA).

Councilmembers present: Undersecretary Baass, Ken Berrick, Dana Blackwell, Shiela Boxley, Bobby Cagle, Judge Leonard Edwards, Patrick Gardner, Leslie Heimov, Sanja Bugay, Brenda Graeish on behalf of Director Jennifer Kent, Frank Mecca, Lee Seale on behalf of Allen Nance representing Probation Officers, Michael Newman, Cheryl Rave, Vaneshia Reed, Rochelle Trochtenberg, Daniel Webster. Also in attendance was Chris Stoner-Mertz, who will be Carroll Schroeder's replacement, and Jevon Wilkes, who will be Paul Curtis' replacement upon both of their appointments.

**II. Approval of the September 12, 2018 and December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Discussion Highlights (Action Item)**

Undersecretary Baass asked for comments or suggested revisions to the September 12, 2018 and December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Child Welfare Council Discussion Highlights. There being none, they were approved on a consensus vote.

**III. Report on Progress and Implementation of the Katie A Settlement Agreement (Information Item)**

Undersecretary Baass introduced CWC member Patrick Gardner to provide a report on the county by county implementation progress on Katie A. Mr. Gardner's presentation included information on the significance of mental health services for foster youth, the significance of those services over time, and an update on the implementation successes and challenges of Katie A. He noted that unmet mental health needs among our school aged children and youth are a highway into dropping out of school and entry into the juvenile justice system. He highlighted two key resources for those practicing in the field:

the Core Practice Model Guide and the Medi-Cal Manual. Both are available on the Katie A website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/pages/katieimplementation.aspx>

Undersecretary Baass called for questions from the council and the public. Frank Mecca indicated a desire to hear from the new Surgeon General regarding the work related to trauma informed care and the intersection with the foster youth population.

**IV. Update on Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Efforts (Information Item)**

Undersecretary Baass introduced Sara Rogers, Department of Social Services Chief of CCR Branch, to provide an update on the progress of the CCR efforts. Chief Rogers' presentation included updates regarding the implementation of short-term residential treatment programs (STRTPs), an update regarding increased technical assistance that has been made available to providers and counties, and data regarding placement and services for children in group homes. Undersecretary Baass called for questions from the council and the public.

**V. Report on Progress of Implementing Child Welfare Services—Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) (Information Item)**

Undersecretary Baass introduced Matt Schueller, Chief Deputy Director, Office of Systems Integration to provide a presentation on the CWS-CARES implementation progress. Kevin Gaines, Project Leader for OSI, provided project background for CWS-CARES and the CANS Assessment tool. Becky Stilling, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Digital Services continued with more background regarding CWS-CARES including the progress on the CANS assessment tool, the child welfare history snapshot, and the facility search and profile feature. OSI staff then provided a demonstration of the CANS assessment tool. Undersecretary Baass then called for questions from the council and the public.

**VI. Presentation on Donation of Used Laptops to Sacramento State, UC Davis and Local Community Colleges to Guardian Scholar Programs for former foster youth (Information Item)**

Undersecretary Baass introduced Greg Rose, Department of Social Services Deputy Director, Children & Family Services, to provide a presentation on providing used state laptops to former foster youth. Greg introduced Dr. Tina Jordan, Director, Guardian Scholars, Sacramento State University. Dr. Jordan provided information regarding Guardian Scholars, a program designed to help support former foster youth continue to strive and increase the number of college graduates. Dr. Jordan requested assistance in increasing department participation in donating laptops to former foster youth who are in college. Undersecretary Baass then called for questions from the council and the public.

**VII. Committee and Task Force Updates**

Undersecretary Baass invited Committee Chairs to provide updates to the full CWC Council. David Swanson Hollinger provided an update on behalf of the Prevention and Early Intervention/Citizen Review Panel. Bob Friend provided an update on behalf of the Permanency Committee. Rochelle Trochtenberg provided an update on behalf of the Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee. Brenda Graeish provided an update on behalf of the Out-of-County Mental Health Task Force. Kate Walker Brown (on behalf of Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie and Leslie Heimov) provided an update on behalf of the CSEC Action Team.

**VIII. Public Comment and Adjournment to Committee Meetings**

Undersecretary Baass asked for any final comments from the members of the public and committee members. Patrick Gardner requested that an action item be included on the next council meeting agenda to establish a mental health subcommittee. The council approved placing such an item on the next agenda without objection. Undersecretary Baass adjourned the meeting at 12:35.