

**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL**  
**Discussion Highlights**  
**September 12, 2018**

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**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Secretary Wilkening called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members and visitors. Justice Raye introduced new council members, Judge Douglas Hatchimonji from the Orange County Juvenile Court and Chief Allen Nance, Chief of Juvenile Probation from San Francisco. He then asked council members and the public to introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of the June 13, 2018 Discussion Highlights (Action Item)**

Secretary Wilening asked for comments or suggested revisions to the June 13, 2018 Child Welfare Council Discussion Highlights. There being none, they were approved on a consensus vote.

**III. Judges Presentation on Child Welfare and the Courts (Information Item)**

Justice Raye introduced Judges Stacy Boulware Eurie, Shawna Schwarz, Douglas Hatchimonji, and Leonard Edwards (Ret.) who provided an engaging presentation of the role of the courts in the child welfare system. They touched on the history of the juvenile courts in child welfare, and the critical role that they play as being uniquely charged in California's court system to engage with the community to help develop resources and to work with multidisciplinary partners to improve the system for families and children.

**IV. Runaway and Homeless Foster Youth (Information Item)**

Secretary Wilkening introduced Rochelle Trochtenberg and Carroll Schroeder who presented the latest data and information on runaway and homeless foster youth in California.

**V. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Harm Reduction (Action Item)**

Justice Raye called on Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, Leslie Heimov, and Greg Rose to present to the council on the concept of "harm reduction" as it applies to serving sexually exploited children in California, who under the policy established by SB 855 (2014) and AB 1760 (2016) are victims, not perpetrators, of a crime. The response to their situation is to be protection, care, and treatment—the services of the child welfare system. Translating that policy into practice confronts the challenge presented by many conditions, such as substance abuse, where recovery and healing does not occur immediately or consistently, and is not fully within the control of the most capable and committed caregiver. The response cannot be "if we can't control you, we can't help you," but rather needs to be "As much as we wish you would not go back out there, we want you to know you can still come back her. This is your home." Greg Rose introduced the Introduction to the Harm Reduction Series produced by the CDSS Child Trafficking Response Unit. After an engaging and positive discussion, the council voted to support CDSS's use of Harm Reduction in commercially sexually exploited child cases.

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**VI. Housing Insecurity and Child Welfare (Information Item)**

Secretary Wilkening introduced Laurie Kappe from the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership to present its latest publication on Housing Insecurity and Child Welfare. She presented national and California data on homelessness. 33% of the national homeless population are families with children (184,661 people); 60% of that group are under the age of 18 (110,797). California has the second highest population of homeless families with children in the country, accounting for 12% of the total. African American children are 2.5 times more likely to experience homelessness than the general U.S. child population.

**VII. Update on Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Information Item)**

Justice Raye called on Will Lightbourne and Greg Rose to present an update on the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Congress passed the bill in February 2018. The law restructured federal child welfare funding, particularly Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, which California uses to pay for services for children in foster care and their families. FFPSA seeks to reduce entry in foster care, limit the use of congregate care, and to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services.

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

Secretary Wilkening and Justice Raye thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

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