

# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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California Child Welfare Council



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Dear Friends of the Child Welfare Council,

We are pleased to submit the 2018-19 Annual Report of the California Child Welfare Council (Council) pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16540. Over the course of the past year, the Council continued to build on the work begun in prior years to improve services to children and families in the child welfare system, and those at risk of entering the system. Members of the Council, its committees, and task forces continued working to improve our multi-system collaborations across all three branches of government and among the many organizations and individuals committed to giving those children and their families the fulfilling lives they deserve.

This report provides an overview of the Council's work during the past year. The Council, in partnership with its Committees and Task Forces, continues to maintain a focus on the review of systems and development of policies needed to promote health and well-being for all children and families. In addition to the ongoing work of the Council's established committees and task forces, this past year the Council established two new committees, the Behavioral Health Committee and the Department of Youth and Community Restoration Committee.

We are grateful to the members of the Council, and the wide-range of organizations and individuals who have so generously given their time and talent to further the work of the Council. We are grateful for their commitment and leadership as we work toward improving the child welfare system in California.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Ghaly

Justice Vance Raye

## Executive Summary

Established as a statewide multidisciplinary advisory body by the Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006, the California Child Welfare Council (Council) is responsible for improving services to children and families in the child welfare system and those at risk of entering the system, with an emphasis on collaboration among the state's multiple child serving agencies and the courts. The Council is also charged with reporting on the responsiveness of those child serving programs and the courts to the needs of children in their joint care.

The State of California is responsible for ensuring that foster children and youth receive mandated services provided by several state departments, but in the Council's authorizing statute the Legislature acknowledged that the services available to meet their basic needs were insufficient. The statute declared that statewide leadership and coordination across partner agencies, organizations, and state departments is essential to addressing poor outcomes and to providing these young people with critically needed support and services at the local level. Since its inception, the Council has continued to make incremental progress in meeting the statutory goals by monitoring and reporting on administrative and judicial projects, participating as a partner in the development of new state programs, identifying opportunities for improving existing state programs, and keeping informed about new research on effective child welfare services.

During fiscal year 2018-19, the Council built on work begun in prior years to further develop multi-system collaboration, process improvement, and effective partnerships necessary for continued improvement within the greater child welfare system.

The Council and its Committees and Task Forces provide an opportunity to achieve interagency collaboration, creative problem solving, and systems improvement—and represents a successful model that is both significant and uncommon in government.

In its quest to improve the child welfare system the Council has taken on the issues described in this report, many of which have long perplexed policy makers, administrators, courts, service providers and—most of all—families and children who receive services. By bringing together the many disciplines involved in child welfare, as well as consumers and advocates, the Council generates meaningful discussion of these difficult issues. It also promotes solutions that have the greatest likelihood of success in the real world, having been developed by people who have an in-depth understanding of the issues from personal experience. The likelihood of success is enhanced because

consideration has been given to the perspectives of the many players who must be part of implementing any solution.

At the same time these complex, cross-cutting issues defy simple or quick solutions. Rather, they require thoughtful minds to gather information, discuss the nature of the issues, brainstorm strategies to address them, apply science and compassion in designing solutions, and develop practical ways to implement improved services and support structures. While this process takes time, the involvement of many agencies and their respective constituencies is essential. Well-functioning multi-system collaborations remain an elusive goal, but one that nevertheless remains first and foremost in the Council’s work, true to the vision of its creators.

### **The California Child Welfare Council Brings Together:**

- Leaders from multiple agencies across all three branches of government at the state and local level
- Former foster youth
- Parents
- Service providers
- Educators
- Advocates
- Researchers
- Other stakeholders

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*“Well-functioning multi-system collaborations remain an elusive goal—one that nevertheless remains first and foremost in the Council’s work . . .*

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## **Council Guiding Principles**

### **Our Vision:**

Every California child lives in a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families with the capacity to meet the child’s needs and support the child’s well-being, and is prepared for the transition into adulthood and becoming a contributing member of society.

### **Our Mission:**

We provide an effective, collaborative forum for the three branches of government, foster youth and their families, and key stakeholders to advocate

for effective and promising strategies and adequate resources to improve outcomes for children, youth and families involved with or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.

### **Council Guiding Principles**

1. Collaboration is essential among the three branches of government, foster youth and their families, and key stakeholders to achieving improved outcomes for children, youth and families.
2. Accountability for child, youth, and family outcomes is shared between federal, state, and local governments and among multiple agencies, the courts, community partners, families, and youth.
3. Engaging families and youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of services, programs, and policies is essential to achieving improved system outcomes.
4. Sharing data and information across governmental jurisdictions, agencies and the courts promotes more informed program planning, development, and evaluation. At the local level, it enables the linkage of children, youth and families to appropriate community services and supports.
5. Best and promising practices should be replicated statewide where appropriate and possible.
6. Maximizing and using multiple funding sources flexibly across systems provides resources needed to meet the comprehensive and complex needs of children, youth and their families.
7. Recommendations will be culturally appropriate, strength-based, evidence-informed, and outcomes-driven to ensure that all children, youth and their families are treated fairly and equally without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

## California's Foster Care System: Overview

California counties are the primary governmental bodies that directly interact with children and families to address child abuse and neglect. The county social services department or probation department (the Agency), through its child welfare division, administers and provides child welfare and foster care services under Sections 300 et seq., 727 et seq. (in probation placed child welfare cases) and 16500 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code. The county child welfare division investigates reports of child abuse and provides case management and other services to help families stay together whenever possible.

Each county maintains a hotline to receive reports of suspected child abuse and/or neglect. Once a call or report is received, a child welfare social worker will evaluate the referral and find that either more information is needed or that it does not rise to the level of abuse and will be closed. If more information is needed, a child welfare social worker will go out to the child's home and assess for risk and safety factors.

When possible, the Agency worker engages with the family to find the least intrusive approach to keep the child safe while supporting the parents in ameliorating the issues that brought them to the attention of the child welfare division. If the Agency's assessment of the problem indicates that formal court intervention is needed, the child may either be removed from or remain in the home while court oversight is requested through the juvenile court system. Services are provided using a trauma-informed, family-focused, needs-driven approach.

When children are removed from the care of their parents by the juvenile court, the Agency provides family reunification services based on individualized case plans that will support safe return of children to their parents, with specified exceptions in situations involving severe abuse of children under age three. The Agency is responsible for reporting on the progress of the family to the court six and 12 months after a child's removal from the parents, with the court authorizing reunification at any point the parents have demonstrated the ability to safely care for their children. After 12 months, the court may hold a permanency planning hearing to determine an alternate permanent family for the child through adoption or guardianship. Children who remain in foster care after they turn 18 years of age, may be eligible for extended foster care services up to age 21 as well as transitional housing and other services up to age 24, and retain eligibility for Medi-Cal until they reach age 26.

The California Child Welfare Council has been monitoring and providing

guidance on statewide implementation of changes in foster care policy. These include Continuum of Care Reform, Family First Prevention Services Act (PL 115-12), and Systems of Care (Assembly Bill 2083).

- Continuum of Care Reform was implemented in California through Assembly Bill 403 (Stone; Stats. 2015, ch. 773) and Senate Bill 794 (Comm. on Hum. Svcs; Stats. 2015, ch. 425). The goal of continuum of care reform is to reduce the use of congregate care settings and increase capacity for a child to be placed with a family. To achieve that goal, legal requirements mandate the continuous assessment of relatives, the agency's responsibility to arrange and participate in Child and Family team meetings, and the elimination of long-term foster care as a permanent plan for child.
- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) (Public Law 115-123) was passed by Congress and signed by the President in February 2017. This Act changes how title IV-E dollars are spent. FFPSA places restrictions on using federal funds on congregate care placements. FFPSA also allows title IV-E dollars to be used in prevention services in limited circumstances. The federal government has given states until October 2021 to implement the changes. California is in the process of working with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan for California.
- Assembly Bill 2083 (Foster Youth: Trauma Informed Systems of Care) was enacted by the legislature in 2018. This legislation requires that state agencies work together to implement a memorandum of understanding and provide technical assistance to counties on providing trauma informed services for children and families in the foster care system.



## The Purpose and Structure of the Child Welfare Council

The Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 was codified in California Welfare and Institutions Code sections 16540 through 16545. Section 16540 establishes the Council, “which shall serve as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children and youth in the child welfare and foster care systems. The council shall monitor and report the extent to which child welfare and foster care programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care. The council shall issue advisory reports whenever it deems appropriate, but in any event, no less frequently than annually, to the Governor, the Legislature, the Judicial Council, and the public.” The Council meets quarterly under the leadership of its Co-chairs:

- **Mark Ghaly**, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency
- **Vance Raye**, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal (Chief Justice of California’s designee).

The Council is comprised of up to 52 members representing a broad spectrum of agencies, advocates and consumers involved in the child welfare system. The Council’s structure encourages participation by Council members and other stakeholders, both during these quarterly meetings and in between through the following standing committees and task forces. The Council has been gratified by the robust participation of a wide variety of nonmember stakeholders through their attendance at Council meetings and their active involvement in Council Committees and Task Forces.

### Standing Committees

Below are the standing committees and task forces for FY 2018-19 as well as the newly established committees.

#### *Steering Committee*

- The Steering Committee provides Council staff with ongoing assessment of the work of the Council and its Committees and Task Forces, gives guidance to Council staff regarding Council agendas prior to approval by Council Co-Chairs, and advises Council staff regarding Council membership to promote active participation.

### ***Prevention and Early Intervention***

- Identifies and promotes services and support systems that prevent the need for families to enter the child welfare system.

### ***Permanency Committee***

- Identifies and recommends strategies to remove barriers that keep children in foster care so that they do not grow up in temporary homes, but rather have permanent, nurturing families.

### ***Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee***

- Identifies and advocates for services to ensure that the health, mental health, educational and social development needs of foster children can be met, and that older foster youth can be prepared for successful transition to adulthood.

### ***Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee***

- Identifies and promotes ways that data can be accessed across major child-serving agencies to provide essential information to those involved in the care of foster children or those at risk of entering care, and to measure children's outcomes from the services they receive.

## **Task Forces for Cross Committee Issues**

### ***Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Action Team***

- Engaged with system partners in developing an infrastructure for serving children who are victims or at-risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation, focusing on children in foster care.

### ***Priority Access to Services and Supports Task Force (Ended 2019)***

- This task force examined how parents of foster children who have a reunification plan can receive priority access to services they need to have their children safely returned home, including services across multiple systems. The task force has ended its work.

### ***Out-of-County Mental Health Services Task Force (Ended in 2019)***

- Advocated for a system that ensures access to mental health treatment for foster children is not compromised when they reside outside their county of court jurisdiction. This task force will be subsumed into the new

more broadly focused standing committee, the Behavioral Health Committee.

At the quarterly meetings during 2018-19, the Council was kept informed about the significant accomplishments by each of its committees and task forces. Details of each Council meeting were captured in Discussion Highlights, which are available on the [Council's website](#).

During the year covered in this report, the Council continued to build on work begun in prior years, using processes that enable multi-system collaboration and effective partnerships as envisioned in the statute that created the Council. These processes have proved to be essential in achieving continued improvement within the child welfare system.

### **New Standing Committees for 2019**

#### ***Department of Youth and Community Restoration***

- The 2019-2020 State Budget mandated the removal of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Board of Juvenile Hearings from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and reestablishes them as the Department of Youth and Community Restoration (DYCR) under the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). That legislation required the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a committee of the Child Welfare Council (CWC) “to provide input and recommendations related to the [DYCR’s] policies and programs that promote a commitment to improving youth outcomes, reducing youth detention, and reducing recidivism.” CWC Co-chair and Secretary of HHS, Mark Ghaly, provided the scope of the committee’s work: “...to provide input and recommendations related to the [DYCR’s] policies and programs that promote a commitment to improving youth outcomes, reducing youth detention, improving reentry services, and reducing recidivism. The goal of this committee would be to provide information and dialogue around the programming of DYCR, including interactions with local and state partners.”

#### ***Behavioral Health Committee***

- At its September 4, 2019 meeting, the Council announced the establishment of a new Behavioral Health Committee, which met for the first time on December 4, 2019. The Committee was formed out of a clear consensus of the Council that despite statewide efforts to improve access to behavioral health services for child welfare-involved youth, there are

still significant challenges preventing youth and families from receiving the comprehensive and integrated behavioral health services they deserve. This committee will tackle those challenges by developing recommendations to guide policy and inform statewide efforts to more effectively address the behavioral health needs of children involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the child welfare system. This objective includes supporting and informing the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administration's clear commitment to improving children's services in California and will intersect with concurrent Department of Health Care Services efforts related to the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM).

## 2018-19 Committee & Task Force Reports

### Child Development & Successful Youth Transitions (CDSYT)

#### Purpose

Identifies and advocates for services to ensure that the health, mental health, educational and social development needs of foster children can be met, and that older foster youth can be prepared for successful transition to adulthood.

#### Activities & Accomplishments

**Priority Employment for Foster Youth:** The committee developed a model policy that proposed how to increase access to workforce development and employment opportunities for former foster youth by providing public sector, entry level job opportunities that give preference to this vulnerable and economically disadvantaged population. The passage of AB 2830 in September 2018 reflected some of the recommendations in the Priority Employment Policy report, including a requirement that counties hire and give priority to hire former foster youth and formerly incarcerated youth into internships and student assistant positions. Counties must also notify foster youth of their eligibility for employment programs.

**Know Your Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights:** In partnership with the California Department of Social Services and other stakeholders, the committee developed and published a brochure for foster youth about their sexual and reproductive health rights and participated in the development of California's Plan for the Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancy. This plan includes suggested strategies that will assist all types of caregivers, social workers, and probation officers to address, communicate, and act upon the sexual health needs of foster youth and non-minor dependents (NMDs). The plan also provides the required and recommended guidelines to describe the duties and responsibilities of foster care providers, county social workers and probation officers in delivering unintended pregnancy prevention services and information. It provides county agencies with a framework to develop and deliver pregnancy prevention curricula, policies, and education materials.

**Responding to Runaway and Homeless Youth:** In partnership with the Permanency Committee, the committee created an informational paper on the creation of a model protocol for a multi-system response to serve the needs of youth who are missing, experiencing homelessness, or have run away from foster care.

**Improving Access to Cal Fresh for Non-Minor Dependents:** The committee drafted policy recommendations to enhance enrollment into CalFresh and improve access for non-minor dependents.

### **Concerns or Challenges**

The CDSYT committee relies on in-kind resources from a wide range of experts, especially the time and expertise provided by its members, and all contributions to the Committee's work must be balanced with the competing demands of participants' full-time jobs. Because of this, in most instances, the pace of progress on projects that are undertaken is slower than members would like. The retirement in 2018 of co-chair Gordon Jackson (Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education), whose work and service are greatly appreciated and missed, created the need for a new co-chair who has not yet been identified. Further, the committee has not had a dedicated staff member, which has led to fewer new goals and slowed progress on meeting deliverables.

### **2019-20 Goals and Objectives**

- Select a new co-chair and identify resources to staff the committee.
- Finalize policy recommendations for improving access to Cal Fresh for Non-Minor Dependents.
- Create policy recommendations to decrease non-minor dependent homelessness.
- Identify barriers and policy recommendations to improve access to enter and re-enter foster care for Non-Minor dependents.
- Enhance the statewide application of Reasonable and Prudent Parent standards and foster youth rights.

## Data Linkages and Information Sharing Committee (DLIS)

### Purpose:

The DLIS Committee supports integration of information across major child-serving agencies (e.g., child welfare, health care services, education, vital statistics, substance use, etc.) to inform policy and practice at the individual and systems levels. Linked data provide staff, caregivers, and courts with crucial means to ensure continuity of care for the child welfare population. The Committee also helps develop essential tools to measure outcomes across systems at the state and local levels. This information is critical for continuous improvements in child welfare services that adapt to the changing needs of children, families and caregivers.

### Activities and Accomplishments

**Promoting Data Linkages:** The Committee continued its collaboration with state agencies, the courts, counties, philanthropy, and academia to promote data linkages that further knowledge about California's children and families.

**Development and Reporting of Outcome Measurement Across Systems:** DLIS Committee members contributed toward development and reporting of outcome measurement across systems and within child welfare at the state and local levels (e.g., California Health and Human Services Agency Program Dashboard, youth parents in foster care), as this is critical to improve the quality of and access to services and supports for children, youth, and families at risk of or involved with the child welfare system.

**Collaboration to Develop Recommendations:** Collaborated with the CSEC Action Team, CDSS, and other stakeholders to develop recommendations for data collection, and outcome tracking of the commercially sexually exploited population of children in the child welfare system.

**Efforts Continued toward Data Linkage Across Systems:** Continued efforts toward linking data across major child serving agencies, including child welfare, education, health, mental health, and alcohol and drugs, in order to give caregivers, social workers, multidisciplinary teams, and the courts the ability to ensure continuity of care and services for children, youth, and families.

**Participation in National Data Leaders Group Conversations:** Committee members participated in the National Data Leaders Group conversations and meetings convened by Casey Family Programs to discuss vital issues related to linkages and application of administrative data (e.g., federal registers and final rules on Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) outcomes and Comprehensive

Child Welfare Information Systems, data tracking and reporting under the Family First Prevention Services Act).

**Updates on National, State and Local Data Sharing Initiatives:** During committee meetings the DLIS continued to provide 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.

#### **Discussions on Key Topics:**

- Multiple presentations and discussion with Professor Mark Courtney of the University of Chicago on data collected and outcomes tracked for the CalYOUTH study of children in extended foster care;
- Dr. Bridgette Lery on the “Outcomes from a supportive housing demonstration for child welfare-involved homeless families in San Francisco”;
- Gregory Lindner, Chief Technology Officer, LA County Office of Education demonstrated the “Educational Passport System for Youth in Foster Care”;
- Regan Foust, Research Scientist at the Children’s Data Network presented “Strong Start Index”;
- Dr. Akhtar Khan, Chief, and Dr. Patrick Delaney, Research Data Specialist, both from the Research Services Branch at CDSS provided an online demonstration of the “California Health & Human Services Agency Program Dashboard”;
- Rebecca Stilling, presented and discussed ongoing development of the “Child Welfare Services – California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES)”, and demonstrated the “Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Module”;
- Andy Krackov, Vice President of Data Strategy – Velir discussed “Lessons Learned from a Dozen Years of Engaging California Communities with Data”;
- Teri Kook, Vice President, Family Resilience Strategies – Empire Health Foundation “Family Impact Network: Supporting Public and Private Efforts to Transition Vulnerable Children and Families from Crisis to Stability”;



- From the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development--Scott Christman, Chief Information Officer and Michael Valle – Manager of Tech Policy and Planning – presented and discussed “The 1849 Collaborative ‘Data Commons’ Project.”

## Concerns or Challenges

The continued and successful implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) legislation will require strong data support. Thus, the DLIS Committee will assist efforts by public child welfare staff at the state, counties, and in the provider community in linking and applying data to monitor implementation, assess practice fidelity, and evaluate performance outcomes. The subject matter expertise and experience of members of the DLIS committee will also aim to assist optimal data collection, reporting, analysis and interpretation of critical target populations and topics (e.g., CSEC youth, cross-system outcomes for TAY and other foster children), as well as to inform the Child Welfare Services – California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) in its ongoing development and ultimate deployment.

## 2019-20 Goals and Objectives

- The DLIS will continue to support data linkages and their applications as well as to collaborate with multiple stakeholders to promote interoperability of information across service systems and data exchanges.
- The DLIS will work with others to promote and facilitate the development for the public reporting of child welfare and cross-system data that adheres to the Data De-Identification Guidelines (DDG) adopted by CDSS.
- Committee members will participate in ongoing efforts toward statewide interoperability planning--including consultation with Assembly Human Services Committee or other staff pursuing policies and legislation on data linkages and information sharing.  
The DLIS will continue to identify and host demonstrations and discussions of exemplary data tools, ongoing development of the California Automated Response and Engagement System, as well as presentations of important topics related to the sharing, linkage, and application of data.
- The DLIS will assist other Council committees, task forces, and action teams regarding questions and needs they may have for data that would

inform and enhance their respective goals and objectives by providing consultation, data analysis, and technical assistance.

- The Committee will network with experts from multiple service systems, learn from their efforts, and provide a forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges to data linkage projects, data integration, and information sharing.

## Permanency Committee

### Purpose:

To support the work of the Council through a specific focus on issues that impact the permanency of children and youth in the child welfare system.

### Activities and Accomplishments

**Reviewed the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) survey of counties on Child and Family Team (CFT) implementation.** Evidence shows that services for children and families are most effective when delivered in the context of a single, integrated team that includes the child or youth, his or her family, natural and community supports, and professionals. In California, the Child and Family Team (CFT) process is key to the success of the Continuum of Care Reform efforts and the well-being of children, youth, and families served by public agencies and their partners. It is based on the belief that children, youth, and families have the capacity to resolve their problems if given enough support and resources to help them do so.

**Reviewed the implementation in California of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA),** a federal bill signed into law in early 2018 that intends to reform the child welfare system to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

**Reviewed the implementation of AB1790, a bill passed and approved in September 2014.** The bill required CDSS to convene a stakeholder group to identify barriers to the provision of mental health services by mental health professionals with specialized clinical training in adoption or permanency issues to children receiving those medically necessary specialty mental health services. The bill required the stakeholder group to make specific recommendations by January 31, 2016, for voluntary measures to address those barriers, but provides that those recommendations are not binding on any state or local government agency or private entity. It requires the stakeholder group to coordinate with, and endeavor not to duplicate, existing local, state, or national initiatives.

### Concerns or Challenges

With a change in leadership of the committee due to Carroll Schroeder's retirement, the committee will be reviewing the original intent of the committee and developing an updated charter with some targeted goals and projects.

## 2019-20 Goals and Objectives

- Determine if the committee is meeting its intent of supporting the work of the Child Welfare Council through specific focus on issues that impact the permanency of children and youth in the child welfare system.
- Reinvigorate the committee through active and targeted membership recruitment.
- Consider changing the committee to “Family Engagement” considering a need for more focus in this area.
- Review and report on statewide data to determine if each child in foster care and probation has a permanency plan.
- Review and report on statewide data to determine if children and families are consistently invited to participate in child and family team meetings.

## Prevention and Early Intervention Committee

### Purpose:

The Prevention and Early Intervention Committee identifies and promotes services and systems that prevent the need for families to enter or reenter the child welfare system and assists them in achieving family and child well-being.

### Activities and Accomplishments

**The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Committee has continued to maintain a focus on the review of systems and the development of policies needed to facilitate *prevention of child abuse and neglect and promote health and well-being for all children and families.*** Throughout the 2018-2019 reporting period, the PEI's work has centered specifically on five areas the committee believes are critical to advancing our vision for the State's prevention efforts:

1. Statewide quality and uniformity of prevention/promotion practice;
2. Adequate resourcing/financing of prevention/promotion efforts with a focus on the full prevention continuum;
3. Alignment with other cross systems, integrated prevention/promotion efforts across the state;
4. Recognition of the role of the community-based sector, particularly family resource centers, and the need for capacity building; and
5. Supporting the county-level child abuse prevention planning and assessing the need/process for a state level plan.

**To advance our goal of a Statewide quality and uniformity of prevention programming and practices, the Committee finalized the Child Welfare Prevention Toolkit, developed during the 2016-2017 cycle, and received approval from the full Council for use and dissemination.** The Child Welfare Prevention Toolkit includes the Child Welfare Prevention Core Elements Framework and the Child Welfare Prevention Action Guide. The Core Elements Framework consolidates elements of child welfare prevention practice that can be consistently and uniformly used by State and County Child Welfare and their partner agencies and providers to guide the design, delivery and evaluation of programming and services, as well as funding decisions. The Action Guide is a compendium of resources that reinforces the Child Welfare Prevention Framework, including specific best practice examples for each of the core elements. The Action Guide also contains cross-walk resources, as well as web links and publications that users of the framework can access.

**During this cycle, the PEI focused its policy review on the application of the Core Elements Framework to the issue of substance abuse disorders (SUD) amongst families at-risk for entry into the child welfare system.** Committee members worked to:

1. Gather necessary data;
2. Identify effective services and programs consistent with the core elements; and
3. Ascertain available funding streams.

**The final document, approved by the full Council, included the review of SUD barriers and their impact on the child welfare system, followed by recommendations to address the barriers in alignment with the Prevention Framework, as follows:**

1. *Address substance use issues early in order to mitigate need for child abuse and neglect referral.*
2. *Ensure effective, integrated substance abuse services and supports are available that promote long term recovery and sustained safety of children for those families that do enter the system, in order to:*
  - a. *Reduce the need for removal*
  - b. *Reduce reentry*
3. *Invest in data improvements to track: SUD as the cause of removals, outcomes of parents referred to treatment by child welfare and monitor annual rates of prenatal substance exposure and treatment outcomes for parents under Plans of Safe Care.*

The Resource Guide was also enhanced to incorporate key articles, documents and tools that serve to inform the field in relation to these specific barriers and assist with the implementation of the recommendations.

**Further, with the implementation of new federal standards under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the passage of the Families First Prevention Services Act in 2018, the Committee initiated discussion on the potential impact on prevention services in California.** The Committee began review of the new mandates to assess their alignment with the tools the Committee has developed to date and determine if they will assist California with the development and achievement of outcomes that strengthen our families and keep children safe. There remains significant concern about the lack of funding for primary prevention and emphasis of FFPSA as being secondary and tertiary prevention,

the reduction in First 5 funding, and the loss of funding due to IVE Waiver. The committee has been exploring recommendations to address these concerns.

**Finally, the committee has begun engaging other prevention/promotion leaders across the state to build on, support, align and leverage these efforts.** This has included an effort to build cross systems membership and to focus the committee direction in the context of these other efforts and the mandates and opportunities described above.

### Concerns or Challenges

The PEI Committee concluded its enhanced role as one of California's three Citizen Review Panels two years ago, focusing on state-wide issues and policies. As mandated by federal law, the PEI-CRP had the authority to present its recommendations to OCAP and CDSS leadership. The loss of this role had an initial impact on our focus and membership participation as we transitioned back to our former role. Ultimately, the committee has refocused its efforts, increased the membership and participation, and is emphasizing the key elements that are not represented elsewhere by the Council: Primary and Secondary Prevention.

### 2019-20 Goals and Objectives

The PEI Committee will focus on the development of recommendations that focus on ensuring that the continuum of prevention services is prioritized, inclusive of recommendations for the statewide implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Ultimately, it is hoped that a full array of services will be offered through an interagency effort that prioritizes infants and other children and their families, including enrollment in state-funded home visiting, early childhood education and development programs, substance use disorder and mental health services, and housing.

Further, the committee will focus on ensuring support for primary prevention efforts and other local, cross systems efforts that go beyond the mandates of FFPSA. The committee will continue to set priorities for adequate resourcing/financing of prevention/promotion efforts with a focus on primary and secondary prevention; align with other cross systems, integrated prevention/promotion efforts across the state; recognize the role of the community-based sector, particularly family resource centers, and the need for capacity building; support the county-level child abuse prevention planning and assess the need/process for a state level plan. The committee intends to align its goals and direction with CWC priorities as well as with the work of other CWC committees that align with PEI efforts.

## Task Force: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's (CSEC) Action Team

### Purpose:

The CSEC Action Team addresses the issue of commercial sexual exploitation among children and youth interacting with the child welfare system by identifying and elevating promising prevention and intervention practices, providing guidance to county agencies and community partners to encourage implementation of promising practices, conducting evaluation to ensure policies improve outcomes for children, and collaborating with and centering the perspectives and leadership of survivors.

### Activities and Accomplishments

**Best Practices and Education:** The CSEC Action Team continues to be a go-to resource for counties and jurisdictions around the country as they navigate and implement new program, policy, and practice requirements to better identify and serve CSE children and youth. Topics covered by the quarterly Action Team meetings include:

- Innovative county practices, such as specialized courts, multidisciplinary protocols (ex. First Responder Protocol, Interagency Detention Protocol, and Victim Witness Protocol) and effective interagency partnerships
- Caregiver and family supports
- Prevention education/curricula
- Effective media/public outreach campaigns
- Research on housing, specialized services, youth-centered research, and specialized behavior health treatment models
- CSE in native/tribal communities

In addition, the Action Team serves as an expert body that develops original guidance documents on relevant topics identified by members requiring statewide, coordinated action. Workgroups of the Action Team have considered:

- Cell phone policies
- Out-of-county/out-of-state issues
- Data and outcomes
- Harm reduction



**Survivor Leadership through the Survivor Advisory Board:** From 2017-2018, the inaugural cohort of the CSEC Action Team’s Survivor Advisory Board completed its first two-year term. The first cohort was comprised of 10 adult members of CSE and was the first state-sponsored advisory body of its kind in the nation. In spring/summer 2018, the Action Team recruited and welcomed the second cohort, which is comprised of 12 members, 4 of whom continued from the first cohort. Between 2017-2019, the Advisory Board members completed over 25 consultations for counties and other stakeholders. These include providing input and guidance on: prevention curricula/materials; CSEC Action Team workgroups on harm reduction, data and outcomes, out-of-county issues, and cell phone policies; placement provider surveys for a long-term research project, and others. In addition, Advisory Board members presented with Action Team members and others at a number of regional and national conferences, including presentations to a conference sponsored by the Judicial Council of California, the Child Welfare Directors’ Association, and Shared Hope’s JuST Conference.

Additionally, members developed and implemented their own substantive agendas. During the first cohort, members led three workgroups: the Hiring Survivors Workgroup, the Educating Lawmakers Workgroup, and the Outreach Workgroup. The members of the second cohort continue to build their substantive agenda, focusing on two subtopics – Educating Lawmakers and Placement/Youth Engagement. Finally, the members participated in a number of professional development opportunities, including resume and bio writing workshops, and an overview of the legislative process with legislative staff in Sacramento.

**Technical Assistance:** The CSEC Action Team continues to serve as a resource for the state and counties, regularly providing feedback on CDSS policies and guidance documents, and supporting implementation of state laws and policies at the local level.

### **Challenges or Concerns**

Challenges include:

- Desire from members and the community for “silver bullets,” despite dearth of evidence-based practices for serving CSE children and youth;
- Difficulty engaging certain categories of stakeholders, such as law enforcement [see below]; and

- Difficulty calculating/measuring the full scope of the issue due to underreporting, under identification, and inconsistencies in data collection.

### **2019-20 Goals and Objectives**

In addition to building on our existing goals of providing technical assistance and guidance to counties and the state on implementation of best practices, supporting the leadership of survivors, and educating stakeholders and the public, the CSEC Action Team has identified the following additional goals and objectives for the 2019-2020 year:

#### **Expand understanding of CSEC among under-served and under-identified populations**

The CSEC Action Team will continue to seek to better understand and share information about the impact of CSE on traditionally under-served and under-identified populations, such as native/tribal youth, boys, and LGBTQ+ youth, as well as sharing promising practices for identifying and serving these subpopulations of youth.

#### **Continue to build and deepen relationships with stakeholders**

To further multidisciplinary collaboration, the CSEC Action Team will continue to seek out and engage a broad range of stakeholders in partnership with child welfare agencies, including juvenile justice and law enforcement stakeholders.

## CWC Membership List

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>TITLE/AFFILIATION:</b>
Mark Ghaly, Co-Chair	Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency
Hon. Vance Raye, Co-Chair	Administrative Presiding Justice, Third District Court of Appeal
Joy Anderson	Policy Coordinator, California Youth Connection
Nancy Bargmann	Director, California Department of Developmental Services
Vincent Bartle	Student, University of California, Berkeley; Former Foster Youth
Sarah Belton	Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Children's Justice
Ken Berrick	President and CEO Seneca Family of Agencies
Dana Blackwell	Senior Director, Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs
Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie	Judge, Superior Court of California, Sacramento County
Heather Bowlds	Director (A), Department of Juvenile Justice
Sheila Boxley	President and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse California
Sanja Bugay	Director, Kings County Human Services Agency
Bobby Cagle	Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Stephanie Clendenin	Director, California Department of State Hospitals
Rebekah Couch	Parent Advocate
Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.)	Retired Judge, Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County; Judicial Council/CFFC Volunteer
Richard Figueroa	Director, California Department of Health Care Services
Patrick Gardner	Director, Young Minds Advocacy Project
Hon. Eloise Gomez Reyes	Member, California State Assembly
Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji	Judge, Superior Court of Orange County
Leslie Heimov	Executive Director, Children's Law Center of California

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>TITLE/AFFILIATION:</b>
Vanessa Hernandez	Legislative Coordinator, California Youth Connection; Former Foster Youth
Martin Hoshino	Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Kathryn Icenhower, Ph.D.	Executive Director, SHIELDS for Families, Inc.
Kimberley Johnson	Director, Department of Social Services
Chevon Kothari	Director, Health and Human Services Agency, Mariposa County; President of CWDA
Sharon Lawrence	Chief Executive Office, California Court Appointed Special Advocates
Camille Maben	Executive Director, California First 5
Aubrey Manuel	President, California State Care Providers Association
Frank Mecca	Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California
Michael Olenick, Ph.D.	President and CEO, Child Care Resource Center
Cheryl Rave	Crave Productions; Foster-Adoptive Parent
Vaneshia Reed	Coro Southern California Board Member; Former Foster Youth
Trent Rhorer	Executive Director, Human Services Agency (and Department of Human Services), San Francisco
Terry Rooney, Ph.D.	Director, Colusa County Behavioral Health Services Department
Hon. Blanca Rubio	Member, California State Assembly
Hon. Susan Rubio	Member, California State Senate
Cherie Schroeder	Yolo County Foster and Kinship Care Education Program; Foster Parent
Hon. Shawna Schwarz	Juvenile Court Judge, Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County
Chris Stoner-Mertz	Executive Director, California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Rochelle Trochtenberg	California Ombudsperson for Foster Youth; Former Foster Youth

**NAME:****TITLE/AFFILIATION:**

Sarah Tyson

Dean of Student Services, California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office

Karen Stapf Walters

Executive Director, California State Board of Education

Daniel Webster, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, California Child Welfare Indicators Project,  
U.C. Berkeley

Leecia Welch

Senior Director of Child Welfare, National Center for Youth Law

Hon. Claudette White

Chief Judge, Quechan Tribal Court, Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

Jevon Wilkes

Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth

**Total Members: 47**