**CA Foster Youth Education Task Force**

**In Person Meeting Notes**

**May 13, 2013**

**Participants: Betsy DeGarmoe, Mia Stizzo, Martha Matthews, Sandra Santos, Angela Vasquez, Michelle Lustig, Karen Alexander, Katherine Fitzmaurice, Benvenuto, Lacy Lenon Arthur, Zamora, Judy Morrison, Jeff Belcher, Lori Fuller, Crystal O’ Grady, Rachel Velcoff Hults, Jesse Hahnel, Ann Quirk, Tracy Maxwell, Terry Hurt, Somesha Adams, Sandie Skinner, Christina, Danielle Mole, Susanna Kniffen, Dana Wellhausen, Maya Cooper, Karie Lew, Jane Tabor Bane**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Updates**

National

Michelle and Rachel attended a convening in Washington DC, hosted by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, for the ten foster youth education grantees. Grantees include Miami, NYC, Santa Cruz and San Diego. The grantees were very different – some being local level efforts, some state level and some tied to Universities.

Infrastructure building was a large theme. Most states are not where California is in working collaboratively. Needs assessments are being conducted in Louisville, Miami, Oregon and Vermont.

Data sharing was also a theme. All grantees touch on data issues. Model MOUs were discussed and some grantees are expanding their use of data to ensure school stability.

Other areas of focus by the grantees include:

Ed Stability – transportation, placement issues, academic outcomes and graduation rates.

Training efforts – CASAs, social workers, foster parents, etc., curriculums. San Diego County offered information about their CASA training.

Trauma Informed – Ohio preparing educators to better meet the needs of youth who have experienced trauma. Louisville is focused on dropout prevention and re-engaging kids in school.

Mia will send out the document with all the grantee information. Rachel and Michelle will continue to provide updates to the CFYETF.

Leg

See leg document provided in advance of the meeting. The list of bills are those where foster youth and education intersect. There are other bills that deal with education that will impact foster youth but those are not on the list.

AB 216 – there has been resolution on most of those issues. The bill will be moving forward with amendments made next week.

AB 643 – This bill would make changes to existing provisions prohibiting school districts from permitting access to pupil records without parental consent or a judicial order.

AB 535 – Requires community college district to grant priority registration to EOPS and disabled students.

Information Sharing Hearing 5/14

Assembly member Stone and his staff have put together a hearing on strengthening the sharing of data to improve FY outcomes. It takes place on the 14th . There will be a panel and discussion and it will be followed up with a second hearing sometime this summer.

Susanna prompted the group for feedback on how to make the leg updates more helpful. Is it preferred to provide brief updates of all legislation on our radar, or target legislation more?

Budget Update

Maya took an opportunity to formally thank those that have been leading this effort over the past few months and especially to Susanna Kniffen – for her long hours and tireless efforts to save FYS.

A policy committee hearing on the Governor’s LCFF proposal was held by Assembly Education Committee Chair, Joan Buchanan’s committee tomorrow on 4/24.  National Center for Youth Law attended that hearing and provided public testimony, as well as Children Now and CYC.

On May 1st the Senate Education Committee held a hearing on SB 69.  Also on May 1st, many advocates and youth showed up for CYC’s Shadow Day event at the Capitol that coincided with the Stuart Report release, which focuses on the comparison of educational outcomes of foster youth to those of other disadvantaged students.

Latest Budget Update (from Maya Cooper at NYCL:

* To summarize the budget process in past years – Governor proposes his budget early in the year.  His current budget proposal eliminates FYS with the token inclusion of foster youth into the LCFF.  A series of budget hearings were held in March & April.  In response to hearings and in response to feedback from community groups and legislators, the Govenor issues a May revise on May 15th (this year it’s on May 14th).  NCYL will email out to the TF the May revise after it’s released.
* After the May revise, there are private meetings with Governor and key legislators – Steinberg’s staff and Assembly Member Perez.  Those parties will come to a resolution on the budget after further meetings and negotiations.  The final budget is passed on June 15th.
* The difference is that **THIS YEAR** – legislators on Assembly and Senate felt uncomfortable with how much policy was being impacting/ implemented thru the LCFF.  Because the LCFF is such a big policy change, the Senate and Assembly decided they were uncomfortable doing everything behind closed doors this time.  The Senate decided that want a more public process and released their proposal with SB 69 on May 1st.  SB 69 is the Senate’s counter proposal to the Governor’s budget.  SB 69 needed to go through a policy committee, unlike the budget that goes to a budget committee.   The Education policy committee then reviewed SB 69.
* SB 69 restored FYS by removing it from the pool of categorically-funded programs slated for elimination in the LCFF.  While this is a positive development, FYS is far from being safe.  FYS must be included in the Assembly’s version of the budget (AB 88) and then remain in the final version to be negotiated with the Administration.
* We’ve been told informally by members of the Administration that FYS has “been taken care of” in the May revise budget proposal, but we still do not know until we see the language
* The 3 things that we’ve repeatedly asked to be included in the May revise are:
  + 1) Increase data sharing such that school districts know which students are in foster care.
  + 2) Ensure county offices of education continue supporting the educational success of students in foster care.
  + 3) Ensure school districts provide students in foster care appropriate educational services.

On May 14th, the Governor will release his May Revise of the budget and our hope that the administration fixes the proposal for foster youth at that time.  If the budget is still detrimental to the needs of foster youth, we’ll have a few weeks to make a final push.  NCYL will issue an email update after the May revise is reviewed and we’ve had a chance to reconvene to determine our strategy for moving forward.

Fact Sheets

Progress is being made and there is a deadline for the end of May. 216 is pending, which will make changes to 167. Rules of Court also will have an impact. We will proceed with finishing them as scheduled and updating the electronic version with any needed changes later in the year. We will need volunteers to read through the drafts to make sure that they are accessible and easy to follow. If you are interested an available to help, please let Mia know.

**III. Task Force Support**

In the past we have received contributions from a number of foundations. The primary way that the support has been spent is to having Mia assisting in supporting the CFYETF and chairs in scheduling, emailing, maintaining the contact lists and correspondence and other admin functions. The CFYETF supports many member agencies and organizations and it would be unfortunate to not have that support role to assist in our vision.

CFPIC has offered to continue to serve as the fiscal sponsor for the administrative support role. The minimum dollar amount that pays for Mia is 15,000, but that is without travel and lunch costs.

There is interest in identifying grants or a fundraising event to help offset admin and Summit costs. Jesse adds that foundations might be interested in a joint funding opportunity involving the agencies as well. It may be time to create a white paper illustrating the work that the Task Force has accomplished over the last ten years.

We will look into getting on the Child Welfare Council agenda to raise the profile of the Task Force.

A smaller group of members (Betsy, Susanna, Jesse, Michelle, Crystal, Martha, Danielle, Maya) will convene a conference call to work through the sustainability options.

**IV.Special Topics**

We have mission statements and objectives from all groups except for ECE and Post Secondary. Those areas are the broadest among the Special Topics, and they are working on paring down objectives. The groups shared their mission statements and objectives to the larger Task Force to provide them with an update of what they’ve been working on and to receive feedback.

School Discipline

AB 1909 – Out of county youth has been an issue due to the fact that out-of-county youth don’t have the same protections in the law as in-county youth. Suggestions for how to put together a cross-county contact list would be appreciated. Maya has a list of FYS Coordinators and CDE also has a contact list on their web site.

Messaging Opportunities : There are many venues to advocate and reach out to policymakers beyond the Capitol – judges, etc. School Discipline was prompted to think about who they need to reach out to and let Susanna know.

School Stability

Their last objective has a lot of cross over with Ed Advocacy and School Discipline. They will connect with some of those members to keep a tie to their work.

Jesse suggested hooking up with someone that is working on residential stability. While they might not have an education background, there is a clear intersection.

Messaging Opportunities: Courts, Beyond the Bench, CWDA presentation. Jesse suggested that CDSS conduct an analysis of how different counties are reimbursing caregivers and school districts for providing transportation to school-of-origin.

Ed Advocacy

Messaging Opportunities: Caregiver conferences, FFAs, bio parent conferences. Jesse and Maya are meeting with the Youth Law Center in a few weeks to discuss intersection with the Quality Parenting Initiative. Rachel will follow up with them.

Maya reminded that the Rules of Court are out for public comment. Mia will send another reminder in early June.

Data and Information Sharing

The workgroup is focused right now primarily on AB 643, legislation that would allow CA to take advantage of the new FERPA amendments contained in the Uninterrupted Scholars Act.

Post Secondary

Karla would like to be added to the committee.

Messaging Opportunities: Northern CA and Southern CA Consortium of FY Educational Professionals, Blueprint Conference

**V. CFYETF Communications**

New Member Outreach

Please see the Promotional Outreach Flyer – let Maya know if you have any suggestions or changes. We will soon be asking our members to circulate this through their respective networks in an effort to get more people involved with the Task Force.

Foster Ed Connect

The CFYETF maintains Foster Ed Connect. Maya is now the administrator, meaning she closely monitors the items being posted and conversations. When questions are posted, we like them to receive a response or answer within 48 hours. When this doesn’t organically happen, we reach out to members to help.

Maya and Mia would like to create a contact list of volunteers to monitor the site, organized by expertise.

**VI. Next Steps and Close**

Our next conference call will take place on Monday, June 10th from 3 – 5:00 PM.