

**NOTES**

**September 2019, In-Person Meeting**

**Casey Family Programs, San Diego, CA**

**I. Introductions and Group Ice Breaker**,*Rachelle Touzard, Co-Chair*

Rachelle Touzard (co-chair), Director of Student Services, LACOE

Melanie Bridges, Riverside County FYSCP

Dani Mole, CA Alliance

Holly Siino, Foundation for California Community Colleges

Michelle Lustig (co-chair), LACOE

Danielle Wondra, Children Now

Jill Rowland, Alaina Moonves-Leb, Alliance for Children’s Rights

Beth Wilshire, Tulare County FYSCP

Margaret Olmos, NCYL/FosterEd California

LaShona Jenkins, LACOE FYSCP

Lorena Galaviz, Learn for Life

Annie Cardullo, Learn for Life

Pao Camacho, CDSS

Kanisha Mothershed, CDSS

Mark Rodgers, Bonita USD

Mara, SDCOE

Mindy Kukich, SDCOE FYSCP

Rikki House, CDSS

Jesse Hernandez, LA FYSCP

Mia Stizzo, CFPIC

Chris Dech, Riverside CC district, FY preparation

Bridget Stumpf, Sac COE FYSCP

Trish Kennedy, Sac COE FYSCP

Tanya Burrows, San Bernardino City USD

Paula Evans, CDE

Kevin Givan, Lynwood USD

Courtney Weber, San Bernardino City USD

Diana Glick, Judicial Council

Dehydys Dizechi, Catholic Charities (ERH of FY)

Lori Valerio, San Bernardino CFS

Renzo Bernales, CDE

Colin Williams, CDSS

Bunny Pinchback, San Bernardino County FY Services

Cathy Murnighan, MW Management

Austin Preller, Shasta County COE FYSCP

**II. Legislative Update,** *Dani Mole, CA Alliance of Child and Family Services, and Danielle Wondra, Children Now*

* Review of relevant bills that are still in play, which ones passed out of Legislature and on to Governor
* Deeper dive on AB 1061: 14-day notice of placement change. Think about other parties to add as recipient of notice—including education folks (FY liaison, FYSCP, Ed Rights Holders)

**III. Legislative Ideas,** *Emily Gonzalez, Facilitator*

Problem with recent legislation. FY don’t owe fees – may conflict with district policies. How to resolve with local conflicts?

* AB 379: file UCP (Alliance toolkit example)
* Is there a leg fix? To allow districts to cover the debt with certain funding streams. How do districts balance the books in this way?
* EC 48853.5(f)(8)(B); EC 49014
* Different interpretations about what release of records means? Official vs. unofficial transcripts, actual diploma vs. confirming student graduated
* Paula: clarification would be helpful

LaShona Jenkins: ESSA transportation. MOU between LACOE, LAUSD, DCFS. Funding for transportation to SOO. Need a funding source. Districts having trouble to come up with this funding. Funding source for districts and CW.

* LA County: 4,000 notices of placement changes in one month. Coordination alone takes a lot of work. How do we track it and map it?
* Districts paying a lot more than CW share.
* Conversion from GH to STRTP: higher transiency. Nothing in the funding that accounts for the fact that it’s more expensive to serve highly mobile students vs. highly stable

Out of home care funding: wasn’t initially intended to be just for special ed, but it is. Need funding for general ed kids through out of home care. Millions of dollars going through SELPAs that may never reach the school district.

* Gather stories to help change and influence the decisions being made around out of home care funding.
* Total allocation: $140 million statewide
* Capacity count (beds) vs. census count: # of foster youth that have IEPs that are enrolled in any different district.
	+ Need a more sophisticated count to account for high mobility.
* Final decision will be made at DOF as well. CDE can inform.
* Kristin Wright, SELPA leadership, DOF: what is the current status of out of home care discussions? Where are you at and what are plans for moving this forward?
* Paula will talk to DOF person next week to get the ball rolling – ask them to commit to providing a response by 2nd week of October.
* Renzo: Out of home care funds intended to augment special education funds.
* Many foster youth who have experienced trauma but will not qualify for special education
* STRTP kids: not anywhere long enough to get a district assessment. Moving around so much that the assessment doesn’t happen so kids are missing out on services.
* ERH not always available
* Intention of SB 1108 (Dede Alpert): not to place in NPS but keep in comprehensive setting and provide the services and supports they need at districts. SB 1108 – 2003-2004
* Renzo: can initiate another cost study for FY SPED out of home care funding

Duplicate count in LCFF – also adding unaccompanied minors.

Probation youth in out of home care placement.

School Stability tab on Dashboard

What is meaningful data for foster youth

* 4-year grad cohort doesn’t always make sense, something more meaningful for foster youth

Jill: Leg clean-ups:

* 167/216 for probation
* Reassessment: does it go back to the original move or at the current time
* Do those rights extend to JJ youth? Need additional guidance (gets caught up with 827)

Eligibility awareness around 167/216. One district: 2 families called and said their kids that were adopted at age 1 were eligible for 167/216.

AB 1962: tribal foster youth. Requires SD to provide same entitlements to students in tribal foster care. CDSS not obligated to provide the info in their matching data. But requires districts to provide services. However, tribal courts have their own autonomy, whether they choose to share tribal court status with school districts. Add provision: if the tribe affirmatively identifies their child as in foster care under tribal authority, then the district includes them in their counts for FY services. But if tribe chooses not to share that info, then district is held harmless.

Transportation issues: Jill: SOO definition at federal level (ESSA transportation eligible) vs. CA SOO definition is more expansive.

Jill: are we being fair to FY? Are we looking at them through equity lens? Partial credits based on seat time. Typical students aren’t losing credits when they’re absent for excused absence. Calculating based on attendance makes things harder. Perhaps take attendance out and look at time of enrollment.

**IV. Ed Summit Planning,** *Emily Gonzalez, Facilitator*

Michelle gave a brief history of the Ed Summit.

This year we are considering moving from a traditional conference structure into something more creative. We will need more Task Force involvement in the program development of the Summit.

What is working:

* Broad representation of stakeholders
* Networking opportunities for students
* Legislative visits

Opportunities to improve?

* Youth participation
* Youth perspective
* Partnership between older and younger youth
* Partnering with existing advocacy and empowerment organizations that serve foster youth. They can form teams and do prework to come to the summit ready to share and unite their voices
* More networking
* Professionals who have attended for multiple years are looking for a deeper dive
* Students want more interactive workshops, student focused workshops
* More postsecondary workshops
* LAUSD FY Leadership Council, Beth/Tulare County youth who do speaking engagements

April 27-28, Ontario Doubletree

Additional ideas:

* Learn for Life: some students learning career tech course that teaches how to use cell phones to make videos. Open mic/poetry slam
* Facilitator at San Bernardino wellness conference
* CA Foster Club allstar (Holly Siino)
* Guardian Scholars/CYC: work more in advance to create the student piece
* Theme/title for summit (2020 – vision)

**V. School Stability Pilot Group Presentations**

**Foster Focus Pilot**,*Bridget Stumpf, Sacramento COE (SEE PRESENTATION SLIDES)*

* Chief administrator for Foster Focus (created in Sac COE in 2000).
* Enter and exit care, change schools, change placements.
* Gets data from CWS/CMS, can also upload CALPADS 5.7 report uploaded by CDE
* Goal: increase school stability; minimize disruption in education when a school enrollment changes – based on feedback that communication between CW and Education isn’t good enough.
	+ Try to reduce unnecessary school changes, disruptions in services and support, disruptions in school
* Pilot will be documenting the progress
* Bridget will be in touch with our School Stability subgroup

**ESSA Transportation Pilot,** *Mindy Kukich, San Diego COE*

* Are all students being transported to their school of origin – basically any option (caregivers reimbursement, school buses, public bus, rerouting buses, etc.)
* Next step: send out survey to all coordinators, do you have agreement, is it executed, how is it being accomplished, what is working well, what are the remaining barriers. Clarity around where we’re all starting from, since counties are all in such different places.
* Alliance: PRA request – may already have a lot of this information to share with the pilot group.

**VI. Refugee Resettlement and Foster Youth**, *Michelle Lustig,**Co-Chair*

(see URM handout) Unaccompanied minor program through Homeland Security. Similar language to foster care language. Unaccompanied refugee/immigrant

* Placed with 3 private FFA (religious) organizations in California – under guardianship of these agencies.
* Being enrolled in schools as if they’re foster youth. But it’s only foster care under federal definition
* Not foster care under CA definition of foster care. Not subject to the petition.
* Handout: Title 45: states must provide services that are equivalent to mainstream foster care
	+ 100% funded by federal office of refugee resettlement.
* Leanne Wheeler says these students cannot be considered unaccompanied homeless youth under McKinney-Vento.
* Because they are placed with one of those agencies and in a permanent living situation there, they are not considered foster youth or homeless youth.
* Public Counsel is looking at the issue.
* Chris Dech: Issue is creating a problem at college campuses as well because they’re coming to community colleges. Reached out to Crittenden. They were hesitant to say that you can provide services – because of the new public charge rule. Will share more with the group as he continues to research it.
* Public Charge will have big impact on this going forward in California.

**VI. Subcommittee Breakouts** (1:55 PM – 2:55 PM)

* **Legislative**
* **Data**
* **School Stability**
* **Ed Summit Program**

**VII. Next Steps and Close**,*Michelle Lustig,**Co-Chair* (2:55 PM – 3:00 PM)

* Next month: Conference call on Monday, October 21st, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
* Our next in person meeting will be in January in Sacramento – information to follow
* We will consider having a northern CA and southern CA meetings simultaneously, using Zoom to collaborate