Task Force Call

February 6, 2012

1. **Welcome Agenda and Review**

Please see the Task Force Distribution list for a list of the meeting participants.

1. **Updates**

**Early Care**

Sasha Stern gave the report; all the updates were around Governor Brown's proposed budget.

* Under the proposed budget CalWORKs would be restructured to solely focus on work and would penalize both parents and their children when they aren't meeting work requirements (80% of recipients are kids 39% are under the age of three
* Governor’s proposed budget would eliminate the young children welfare-to-work exemption for parents of children under 2. Now parents of children under the age of 2 do not have to meet work requirements, but if the budget is passed they would be required to work 20 hours/week or lose services
* Cal-Learn which provide child care, school support, and financial incentives to finish high school or get a GED (for pregnant and parenting teens on CalWORKs) would be eliminated from the budget.
* Children of parents on Cal-WORKs who are not meeting work requirements would be kicked out of state subsidized child care.
* Starting in 2012-2013 child care will be moved from California Department of Education to county social welfare offices. Without dedicated funding streams in the future and administrative burden to track overpayment for services.
* Governor Brown proposes to further cut child development programs by $517 million; which would result in the elimination of at least 62,000 kids losing services.
* The priority for ECE services would continue to be children in foster care, those meeting risk categories for being abused and neglected, families meeting work requirements on CalWORKs, then low-income families.
* If the proposed cuts go through, more than $1.7 billion would be cut from early care and education since 2008 with over 160,000 children losing access to ECE.
1. **Hot Topics**

**Post Secondary**

*School Discipline Case Study* –

Kate Little presented to the Task Force that she has been working on a School Discipline Case Study that researches discipline practices that result in time out of class, all forms of punitive discipline. This also includes disproportionate discipline, looks at children of color, and children at risk for being suspended, expulsion, kicked out of the school district.

Katie has found that there is a critical need in the foster youth services and discipline for a data tracking system in this area and interventions for preventing suspension, expulsion, etc. Katie is asking those folks who have a perspective on the need for reforming discipline, specifically for foster youth, for their input/information for her paper.

If you want to participate please send Katie an email within the next two weeks, by February 17th and Katie will coordinate a time to discuss your stories, perspective, and experiences. katemarie.little@gmail.com

Some of the perspectives discussed during the call are as follows:

* Multiple placement issues, placement can be changed because of School Discipline;
* File tracking and data input. Find that the history of the student and why the discipline action was taken place is sometimes missing information in the files;
* Laura Faer can send – changing discipline practices generally speaking

**California Budget Proposal**

Susanna Kniffen gave the report as Jesse Hahnel was not able to attend the meeting.

The Governor’s budget proposal is that Foster Youth Services is to be cut from categorical funding and put in the weighted student formula. Jesse Hahnel has spearheaded a special topics sub group to oppose the budget proposal. If you would like to join this committee please contact Jill Worthington or Jesse Hahnel jhahnel@youthlaw.org

The Sign On letter was signed by over 100 Organizations and 800 individuals. The letter will go to the Governor and budget committee this evening or tomorrow morning. We will be looking through the signatures to make sure we have statewide representation to fully show that this is a statewide issue vs. a few counties.

There will be a few people that will speak at the Feb 16th Education hearing. From this hearing sub-committees will be formed. When there are subcommittee hearings are set we will let people know the dates etc. This will be a time for folks to write specific letters to the subcommittee or testify at the hearings. Susanna also reported that there is also new information that the Governor may be keeping the requirements for FYS and when we hear more we will let you know.

**Student Record Elimination**

Laura Faer reported that the Governor proposes to eliminate the following education code provision requirements related to foster youth, which the Commission on States Mandates has determined are reimbursable state mandates. Laura would like to write a letter similar to the Foster Youth Services opposition letter to be circulated for signatures. Michelle Lustig, Susanna Kniffen, Cheryl Theis, Marko Fong, Patrick Hirsch will help Laura draft and circulate this letter. This group will be added to the special topics CA Budget Group.

Laura asks that you send an email to lfaer@publiccounsel.org with a few sentences regarding why this proposal is an issue for Foster Youth, she will draft a letter and start the circulation process.

Below are the details of the proposal (see Laura’s document attached for more :

1. **Foster Family Agency Access to Records:** Provide access to records of grades and transcripts, and any individualized education plans of a current or former pupil under the jurisdiction of a foster family agency to the foster family agency. (Ed. Code 49069.3 (Stats. 2000, ch. 67).)[[1]](#footnote-1)
2. **Timely Transfer of Foster Care Students Records:**
	1. Cooperate with county social service or probation department to ensure that a pupil’s education record is transferred to the receiving local education agency in a timely manner after the K-12 school district has been informed of the pupil’s next educational placement and upon the request of a county social service or probation department, a regional center for the developmentally disabled or other placing agency. (Ed. Code 49069.5 (b) (Stats. 1998, ch. 211).)[[2]](#footnote-2)
	2. Cooperate with the county social service or probation department to ensure that educational background information for a pupil’s health and educational record is transferred to the receiving local educational agency in a timely manner after the K-12 school district has been informed of the pupil’s next educational placement. (Ed. Code 49069.5(c) and (d) (Stats. 1998., ch. 311.).)[[3]](#footnote-3)
	3. Transfer the educational and health record of a pupil in foster care to the pupil’s new local educational agency within five working days of receipt of information regarding the new educational placement of the pupil. (Ed. Code 49069.5(e) (Stats. 1998, ch. 311).)[[4]](#footnote-4)
3. **Special Topics**

**Legislative Sub**

Three bills that have been put into legislative counsel; Ed Advocacy, AB 490/ School of Origin, School Discipline. The Ed Advocacy group’s bill (Ab1573 Educational Stability)has an author and is in the process of being put into bill form. We are currently looking for authors for the other two, and we will be looking to have authors by the end of February.

We are in the process of tabulating the information from the surveys. Ask that the Task Force send the survey back out to get as much info as possible from your connections. If you have any questions please contact Laura lfaer@publiccounsel.org

Laura Faer also reported on the Number of children that are in out of home care. Linda Zall and Keith Rivera will send some data regarding children/youth in out-of-home foster care. (See Attached Spreadsheet) The limiting of Ed rights is denoted by a “Y” for all children/youth in out-of-home care.

**School Discipline**

* School discipline proposed bill has been accepted as an un-backed bill at this time (still looking for an author)
* Conducting research on disproportionate school discipline for foster youth
* Conducting research on best practices for reducing school discipline for foster youth
* Completed summary bullet points for the Ed Summit

**Mental Health**

Will be meeting again in two weeks to go over next steps and what priorities we want to pursue. If anyone has best practices in their area that they want to forward along, this group will be reviewing those.

**Early Care and Education**

* We provided sub-committee members with 5 options to work on and then had them vote on their top choice.
* The majority of the members chose to work on licensing standards.
* The areas that the task force would like to look at are: What education, information, and training do foster parents receive around early childhood development, trauma in the early years, early interventions (EI), and developmental delays.
* How can we include training around these areas to foster parents?
* What questions are being asked on the California State Social Work licensing exam around ECE & EI?
* Is it possible to have questions around ECE/EI put on the test?
* What training do paraprofessionals, investigators, case workers (non-MSWs) at DCFS have on ECE/EI and is it possible to change requirements about training, continuing education, in-services on these topics.
* Because this is a lot of work, the group will discuss which area we want to focus on and research what statewide policies are, what counties are doing to train caregivers and staff on ECE/EI.
* Are there promising practices in other states around ECE training and licensing.
* What are the barriers to changing licensing requirements and how can we address them

**Higher Education Special Topics**

* Improve middle and high school early intervention and college preparation of foster youth to increase exposure to advantages and avenues to higher education;
	+ Emphasize approaches which align educational pathways between k12/cc/csu and uc  e.g. Linked Learning the high school transformation movement adopted by CA Department of Education;
* Increase evidence based approaches like contextualized teaching and learning, senior year bridge courses, and dual enrollment which increase success in PSE to avoid the need for remediation courses in postsecondary establishments;
* Provide better notification to foster youth and education rights holders about their college readiness and higher education options
* Improve communication between K-12 and postsecondary institutions as it pertains to a student’s IEP or special needs designation
* The implementation of priority registration (AB 194) at postsecondary educational institutions
* Postsecondary access issues in light of campus impactions and course offerings
* Information exchange on promising practices like:  Early Start, a new CSU program which requires students to remediate the summer before registration;
* Promising practices on AB12 partnerships with County Offices and postsecondary institutions to foster THP-Plus programs

If you would like to be involved with the special topics workgroups connect with the work group chairs, Susanna or Jill to get your name added to the distribution list.

1. **Ed Summit**

The new budget proposal could impact the Ed Summit funding sources to put on the event and bring supporters/partners to the summit. Our fiscal agent has some very serious concerns about signing the contract which requires an estimate of participants and space needs. If the event is not as big as estimated there are percentages of the costs that the fiscal agent would be responsible for. Our typical funding partners are not on board for 2012.

Because we will not know the outcome of the budget issues until June, it does not give us a lot of time to plan. We suggest looking to target a date in February/March to re-schedule the Summit.

Discussion

* Last week of Feb. is not good.
* If FYS goes away the need for the Ed Summit will be even more important that it take place for collaboration with regards to education and foster youth, also the counties will need to meet to figure out how they will work out policies given the new proposal etc.
* Concern of the two year lapse between Summits; would prefer not to postpone.
* If there are other organizations within the Task Force that want to contribute to the deposit costs, it could be funded; everyone would share in the liability of the participation quota not being met.
* Could we research the option of going to a smaller venue that wouldn’t require a large deposit.
* Suggest that we do something in October that would be cost effective. Suggested Venues: UC Davis Conference Center, Sacramento State, AOC, or California Endowment in LA
* Suggest delaying until spring 2013.

Youth and Caregiver Engagement

* Agree that there should be a Youth tract at the summit.
* Suggest working with local campuses and youth organizations to commit to some money for youth participation at the summit.
* The group would like to focus on youth participation more than caregivers for this year’s summit.
* Create a youth engagement team on the Ed Summit Planning Structure; Patrick Hirsch will be the chair on that sub-committee.

Next Steps

1. Come up with the deposit for the Ed Summit with the support from other organizations/Task Force members.
2. Jackie will check on the availability of the CDE
3. Cathy can see if the venues suggested are other venues available in October.
4. Chris Wu will check the availability of the San Francisco AOC Auditorium. Max. Cap 275.
5. Check back with the Ed Summit Coordination Team. There is agreement that the Ed Summit Coordination Team will make the decision on how we will proceed.
6. **Leadership Transition**

Ann Quirk’s term is coming to an end in February. Recommendation from the Task Force was for staggered terms so that we were building the capacity of new co- chairs as they came in - one change with each new chair having a three year term.

If you are interested in being Task Force co-chair or if you have recommendations/nominees, pass those names along to Jill Worthington via email to jill.worthington@cfpic.org or mia.stizzo@cfpic.org. Then we will set up a doodle or survey monkey for voting to come up with the next co-chair. Please get you nominations by the end of January.

**VII. Next Steps and Close**

Next Task Force Conference Call is scheduled for March 12th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Conference Call Line 866-231-3596

Pass Code 7282345#

1. “Foster family agencies with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former pupils may access records of grades and transcripts, and any individualized education plans (IEP) that may have been developed . . . by school districts or private schools.” 49069.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “The proper and timely transfer between schools of pupils in foster care is the responsibility of both the local education agency and the county placing agency.” 46069.5(b) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “As soon as the county placing agency becomes aware of the need to transfer a pupil in foster care out of his or her current school, the county placing agency shall contact the appropriate person at the local educational agency of the pupil. The county placing agency shall notify the local educational agency of the date that the pupil will be leaving the school and request that the pupil be transferred out.” 46069.5(c). “Upon receiving a transfer request from a county placing agency, the local educational agency shall, within two business days, transfer the pupil out of school and deliver the educational information and records o the pupil to the next educational placement.” 46069.5(d). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “As part of the transfer process described under subdivisions (c) and (d), the local educational agency shall compile the complete educational record of the pupil including a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the pupil’s plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. sec. 794 et seq.) or individualized education program adopted pursuant to the federal [IDEA].” 49069.5(e). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)