

**May 1, 2026  
Sea Venture  
100 Ocean View Ave  
Pismo Beach CA 93449  
Check Out by 11:00 AM**

**Present:**

**Tracey Belton  
Christine Chung-Camacho  
David Foster  
Nadia Lopez  
Lito Morillo  
Chris Woods**

**Sanja Buay  
Monica Connor  
Kathy Harwell  
Donna Lutz  
Jeremy Oliver**

**John Ceccoli  
Devin Drake  
Christine Huber  
Deborah Martinez  
Kelly Woodard**

**07:30 – 08:30**

**Breakfast**

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Round Table Directors**

The meeting began with a roundtable discussion focusing on participation and engagement in the CCASSC process, including contributions to agendas and presentations. The group discussed AB 339 implementation, specifically the requirement to notify unions 45 days prior to issuing an RFP when contracting out services. Counties reported that they are proceeding in good faith with notification and involving HR and contracts or purchasing teams in both new and renewal agreements. There was discussion regarding the possibility of a match waiver at the state level, including the potential shift in funding ratios from 50/35/15 (federal/state/county) to 25/50/25. Counties discussed fiscal implications, noting that if overmatching is not possible, the impact could result in a 10 percent reduction rather than a 25 percent reduction if the waiver is approved.

**09:30 – 09:45**

**CalSaws Discussion Updates - Francena Martinez & Group**

The CalSaws discussion focused on foster care eligibility determination and the interface with CARES. Concerns were raised regarding system downtime and the risk of data not transferring properly between CARES and CalSaws, particularly in test and production simulation environments. Counties noted concerns about the CARES code freeze scheduled for July 30, 2026, and potential impacts on foster parent payments. It was also noted that testing remains scenario-based and does not allow

comprehensive testing across all case types, raising concerns about system readiness.

**09:45– 10:15**

**CARES – Updates – David Foster/Donna Lutz**

CARES updates were provided by Donna Lutz and David Foster. Overpayments and testing scenarios were discussed, along with the July 31, 2026, code freeze. Concerns were raised that child welfare staff may not be aware if system changes have been fully implemented. Office hours were identified as a support mechanism, and discussion included how CARES updates will be incorporated into training. The Central California Training Academy (CCTA) role beginning in October 2026 will focus on training new social workers. The CARES implementation workgroup continues to address system testing, defects, and training feedback loops.

Shanel Moore shared results from a survey conducted across the 12 counties served by the Academy, outlining plans to support counties through staffing adjustments and training efforts. Discussion included increasing hotline staff, additional system fields, and emergency response needs. A directors' group is now meeting twice weekly to monitor progress. Questions were raised about the extent of system testing completed and categorization of tested scenarios. A follow-up report was expected in May. Concerns were expressed regarding training readiness and the need for contingency planning if issues remain unresolved by July. There was also discussion about a potential parallel training environment, although timelines remain unclear.

**10:15 – 10:30**

**Director Training Updates/Discussion – & Leadership Summit/Al**

Director training updates were presented by Kelly Woodard, including the launch of the Executive Leadership series titled "What You Need to Know." The training will be held at Hilton Garden Inn in Pismo Beach, with the Academy covering lodging and meals while counties cover transportation. Each county is allocated two participant slots, with additional slots potentially available for Fresno and San Luis Obispo based on their contributions. Participants are expected to attend the full series. Nadia Lopez and Selena Robles were identified as contacts for registration.

**10:30 – 10:45**

**Innovation – What is Coming – Donna Lutz**

Innovation updates included discussion of State initiatives through CalWISE and the development of microlearning

approaches. Adult Services Training Academy (ASTA) reported progress on a hoarding project and the initial phase of virtual reality training development.

**10:45 – 11:00**

**New Renamed CWDA Subcommittee Directors & Champions – Returning to “Workforce Development Subcommittee” Charter and Bylaw to be Reviewed – Donna Lutz**

Donna Lutz provided an update on the CWDA Directors and Champions Subcommittee, which has been formally disbanded and transitioned back to the Workforce Development Subcommittee. The group discussed alignment with CWDA structures, and a formal charter and bylaws have been established. Monica Connor was identified as the Central Valley representative.

**11:00 – 11:15**

**Break**

**11:15 – 11:45**

**IV- E Updates Joint Meeting – Christine Huber & David Foster**

The group also discussed Title IV-E updates, including challenges faced by universities in meeting match funding requirements and the resulting impact on student participation. Fresno State continues to support part-time students, although available slots are decreasing. Stanislaus County is awaiting admissions data to inform planning decisions. It is anticipated that fewer students will be eligible for Title IV-E stipends moving forward. Discussion included the historical intent of Title IV-E to support social services employees and the absence of retention data since the dissolution of CALSWEC. This was identified as a potential research opportunity for the Central Valley.

**11:45 – 12:00**

**Topics for September 24 Self Sufficiency & Next Years Meetings – Kelly Woodard**

Kelly Woodard led discussion on upcoming topics for the September 24<sup>th</sup> Self-Sufficiency meeting, including HR 1 implementation, housing and hearings, employment services, supportive services such as transportation, and fiscal impacts. Directors will also address tiered rate structures and fiscal considerations.

**Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**September 24 & 25 2026 – Self Sufficiency**

**November 19 & 20, 2026 – Child Welfare – Cancelled**  
**November 5, 6, 2026 – Child Welfare**