

**CCASSC Minutes**  
**San Luis Obispo Office of Education**  
**December 14**  
**10:00 AM 4:30 PM**

**Present:**

<b>Mireya Anaya</b>	<b>Dalvin Baker</b>	<b>Kati Coggins</b>	<b>Maria Bermudez</b>
<b>Yvonia Brown</b>	<b>Linda Belch</b>	<b>Pollie Bith Melander</b>	<b>Sanja Bugay</b>
<b>Travis Cronin</b>	<b>Jordan Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Jess Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Sydney Forga</b>
<b>David Foster</b>	<b>Kathy Harwell</b>	<b>Christine Huber</b>	<b>Sam Kasich</b>
<b>Nadia Lopez</b>	<b>Jami Johnson</b>	<b>Amy Krueger</b>	<b>Donna Lutz</b>
<b>Josh Mercier</b>	<b>Monica Connor</b>	<b>Shanel Moore</b>	<b>Deborah Mart</b>
<b>Denise Martinez</b>	<b>Francena Martinez</b>	<b>Wendy Osikafo</b>	<b>Akkia Pride Pol</b>
<b>Kim Smith</b>	<b>Kelly Woodard</b>		

**1. Welcome & Introductions – Yvonna Brown, Chair**

**2. Student Stipend Presentations**

**Denise Martinez, MSW. Denise did her presentation on Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Latina Women/Deportation.**

**Jordan Fitzpatrick, MSW. Jordan did his presentation on Barriers to Accessing Gender Affirming Mental Health Care for Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals.**

**3. Complex Care High Needs Youth - Group**

**Multiple System -Akkia Pride-Polk – Monica Connor – Baljit Hundal. Presented by Monica Connor. AB 2083 MOU Status – Counties completed: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare, San Benito, Mariposa.**

**Continuum of Care Pilot Updates – Updates from Pilot Counties. See Power point. Monica Connor/Group discussed AB2083, discussed. Kern shared promising TFC plus and two providers. They have a shelter for complex care youth.**

**Shared what is working well with cross collaboration:**

**Linda Belch - San Luis Obispo. Annually, there are joint presentations with Schools tied to resources and the referral process.**

**Monica Connor - Kings County. System of Care Partners are looking at existing or missing policies that may get in the way of serving children. They are looking at opportunities to reduce barriers within systems; streamline services and make recommendations to State policies, laws etc. Currently there are no children placed in STRTP's. This process has assisted in identifying pathways to help individual children.**

**Maria Bermudez, Kern has a County operated IFC program. They contract with two Foster Family Agencies. Kern has a shelter. The shelter is a safe place for complex needs youth; it allows time to find a good match for placement. Concerns Regional Center Homes are sometimes not available and very costly. Regional Center Homes are closing. There are now less beds statewide.**

**Wendy Osikafo said Monica Connor is doing a great job, slowing people down. She is working on this skill set with her staff. Staff need support to slow down; which is important.**

#### **4. Continuum of Care Pilot Updates:**

##### **Discussion of the Pilots**

**Fresno/Madera Dalvin Baker. On October 13, 2021, the Fresno Bee published a story of youth sleeping in the office. The children had complex, multi-system needs and did not have placements. Their BOS began working with the Department to find a location for the children that was more inviting and appropriate. They are also looking at getting licensed.**

**In 2021; twenty-one youth were in the office 3 or more nights. One child was in the office 115 nights. Some of the youth had multiple occurrences of staying in office.**

**In September/October 2022 – CCCP developed a project with Fresno and Madera. The project included an emergency, intense placement program, enhanced services, and homes designed to support youth with intensive needs for up to one year. They worked with Ken Berrick. The proposal included emergency placements; homes and a Super wrap program. The power point provided has more detail. The proposal was approved for both counties. Promisa and Aspira Net were chosen. Central star was chosen for Wrap and Super wrap. Kim Smith from Fresno is the overseer of the programs.**

**Their county teams are working on staffing levels, service needs and a creative approach to service delivery. They are still working with Ken Berrick. They are working on expectations for vendors and an advisory group. They need to go to the Board; there is still much work to be done.**

Fresno is working on a Mod C License as a shelter facility with CDSS. In May 2023, the types of children served in Mod C included sixty-seven entries; fifty-one youth. Many of the children were to an immediate notice removal; 14-day notice expiring, or children returning from AWOL status. Latest trends include parents not picking up children from psychiatric facilities, probation not keeping youth and judges ordering 300s. They are working on staffing levels and service delivery needs. Further they are forming an Advisory Group; developing policy and procedures guides for staff and determining training needs. Partnerships have a desire to help youth. The challenges include inexperience in this area and changes in staff.

Merced/San Joaquin/Stanslaus – Akkia Pride- Polk. San Joaquin has a Crisis Continuum of Care Pilot. Aspira Net is the provider in conjunction with community-based organizations. The goal is to meet the needs of Central Valley Youth & Families; keeping those youth close to home and prevent hospitalizations. Project began in 2021 and will conclude in 2027. The goal is to meet the unmet needs of youth. Include Child Welfare, Probation and Behavioral Health. The funding covers programming and infrastructure. \$33 million is for the Crisis Facility in Turlock, \$10 million for the ILP facility and 2.8 million for STRTP training, staffing support. Merced, Jami Johnson advised this cannot come together quick enough.

Additional programs: Children’s Crisis Residential Program (4 beds), Family Visitation Site (longer visits, kitchen, family centered), Crisis Stabilization Unit, Wellness Center, and Psychiatric Health Facility. Looking at new facilities. The vision is on a single local site to facilitate a continuum of care for the Central Valley. Further, looking at ongoing service providers when youth transition. Breaking ground in 2024.

San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara – Linda Belch. They did a joint application to the State in partnership with Behavioral Health. Their project includes a Crisis Stabilization Residential Program – alternative for inpatient care for youth. The Vision is to help reduce youth visits to Emergency Rooms. Further includes enhanced STRTP beds; will be one facility with two floors. Increased the number of homes with enhanced services with an RFA parent that is in the home full time.

Antonya Moore, Regional Fiscal Chair provided the group with a list of Fiscal Implications in Child Welfare. A copy was provided to the group.

## 5. Family Finding – Akkia Pride-Polk

The state is encouraging counties to increase efforts on Family Finding. Two ACLs were discussed to include: 23-02 and 23-12. Also discussed was Flexible Family Support & Home-Based Foster Care Funding AB 179; \$150 million General Funding. Funds can

cover respite care and extracurricular and enrichment activities, to support or continue a youth connection with relatives. Concrete costs associated with facilitation of a placement with a relative. Funds can also be used for specialized permanency work to include culturally responsive, family centered and trauma informed family finding and engagement services. The Letter of intent is due July 1, 2024. Funding is available through June 30, 2025. One-time allocations are at risk. Submit those letters. Linda Belch and Akkia went over Family Finding Practice, page 27 on the Power Point. Counties must match 50%. San Joaquin County has agreements with CASA, Way finder Family Services and Victoria Community Support Services. During the initial removal ER workers inquire about family members, and they have Social Worker dedicated to full time family finding. The social worker utilized Lexus Nexus; social media and a review of CWS/CMS dated to search for relatives.

**6. Cal Aim – Baljit Hundal. Discussion of Mental Health.**

Cal Aim – purpose is to provide comprehensive and personalized care to members, address health related social services, needs, streamline access to care and strengthen mental health and substance use disorder services.

Cal Aim is to strengthen collaborative partnerships which includes Mental Health, Preventive Personalized Care and Health. Social Services, Behavior Health, Public Health, Healthcare, Sheriff, Probation, CBO Manage Care, Education, Regional Center involved. She has been looking for information on ECM, child welfare, not much information.

New ECM Populations. Children and Youth involved in Child Welfare. As of July 1, 2023, DHCS introduced Children and youth as a population focus. Includes children under twenty-one in foster care, previous foster youth under twenty-one, youth aged out of foster care to age 26, youth under age 18 and eligible for the California Adoption Assistance Program, youth under nineteen receiving services from CA Family Maintenance program within last 12 months. Referral must be responded to within 5 days. ECM valid for one year. There is not a lot of information yet. DHCS clear that ECM providers must have experience with this population.

CHCS Approved Community Supports. Former foster youth identified as appropriate for these supports. Respite services discussed the goal is to avoid care giver burnout. Day Habilitation Services. Provides skill building; work with unstable housing issues. Her thoughts included ILP and TAY Youth.

Home modification community supports. Asthma Remediation is included to assist with asthma. \$7,500 max, can assist with home modification.

**Sobering Centers, public intoxication. They provide triage, beds, substance abuse counseling for eighteen and above. Child Welfare should know about these resources. Useful resource for FM/reunification. Baljit shared a chart of community support Services and examples of those services.**

- 7. CWS CARES Update - Linda Belch. The group watched a CARES video which was eight minutes. Terry Luna reviewed the video. They do not think it is quite ready to show. Highlights of the discussion included a concern about the significant investment that will be needed in each county to support migration to CARES. This has been shared with the committee, CWDA and CDSS. The demonstration shows improvements in intake as compared to the CWS/CMS legacy system. It is not clear when external systems will be terminated and how the functionality will be transitioned into CARES.**
- 8. Discussed Confidential Reporting to Child Welfare. Specifically starting January 1, 2024, the law changed, and we can no longer accept anonymous hot line referrals. Discussion about how we train staff to not lose referrals, gain information need and encourage reporting/disclosure. The group discussed their concerns, and they want to know what the thoughts of the regional Child Welfare group are.**

**Further, starting January 1, 2024, the law requires the retention of CWS files permanently.**

- 9. FFPSA Part 1 - Maria Bermudez & Group. Pg. 43 power point. The Plan was due to CDSS by August 2, 2023. Legislation: Feb. 9, 2018, Public Law (P.L.) 115-123 which includes the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA was signed into law). It requires primary and secondary prevention. The concerns include CARES delay, funding stability, delays in state plan approval and that there is no approved bey the State Evidence Based practices.**
- 10. Workforce Development – Jami Johnson & Group  
Counties are still struggling with staffing issues. Expressed concerns about CalSWEC changes; hoping Title IVE stipends will remain. Retention Strategies discussed.**

**Merced County developed an employee survey. The Survey focused on retention - Why are you staying. Some findings included concerns about training. Will be doing some follow up surveys with staff. Also doing targeted recruitment videos and job fairs. Attending classes at the university. Merced is looking at the possibility of becoming an ALMS county rather than CalHR. Merced also does continuous recruitment for Social Workers.**

Several counties expressed the benefit of continuous recruitment. Also looking at expanding part-time SW.

Tulare County Update - Focusing on SOP training and doing training in cohorts. Also doing targeted CPM and SDM training. Piloting a model where a supervisor goes out and job shadows/coaches/mentors new Social Workers. Receiving positive feedback. ER Enhanced funding has helped to encourage more SW to work on call status. Also did targeted training for Managers on CPM.

Kern - Recruitment /Retention committee - implementing some ideas staff want more modern painted break rooms - more inviting- let staff select paint, flooring, etc. Doing more outside sitting areas. Looking at more self-care - support group/peer support groups/grief support. Importance of focusing on staff needs. Understanding more about the use of technology and social aspects.

Discussion about stipends: Stipends paid to ER, some counties are paying a stipend to Court Workers as well. Madera - 5% to all SW including Adult. ER gets 10%. Fresno - 5% for CWS, 7% for CWS ER

**11. Advocacy Needs – Linda Belch**

Linda provided a list of advocacy requests from the region. They include:

Complex Care Youth

Workforce – needed funding help with workforce.

Prevention

CalAim-BHConnect

**12. CCTA READI & Managers Summit Shanel Moore**

Discussed Advanced Leadership Skills. Passed flyers, implementation science. FFPS Barret Johnson. READI for READI and Coaching Fundamentals.

READI will work on Data, advance work on IQWA summit. January will be at another convening. How to be a leader in a multigenerational workforce. These are open for both Children's and Adult Welfare.

Scan flyers.

**13. University – Travis Cronin & Pollie Bith-Melander**

Polly Bith-Melander, Program Director Stanislaus State - advised they got a grant to expand and start a new BSW program. They have a high breed program. They have funding to expand the program. They started on Stockton Campus. They have a hybrid that is 20% classroom, Saturdays and online. Total of twenty-five students.

Travis Cronin - Fresno State discussed the potential to start a new BSW program.

**Students must do an internship. Looking at how to expand field internship opportunities beyond IVE. How do you recruit folks not ready to commit to IV E. The programs are moving to Advance Standing; 2026 Fresno Start slated to start. This will reduce internships.**

December 15, 2023  
Sea Venture  
December 15, 2024  
100 Ocean View Ave  
Pismo Beach CA 93449  
Check Out by 11:00 AM

Present:

Present:

Yvonna Brown

Sydney Forga

David Foster

Kathy Harwell

Christine Huber

Sam Kaisch

Nadia Lopez

Amy Krueger

Donna Lutz

Josh Mercier

Shanel Moore

Deborah Martinez

Francena Martinez

Wendy Osikafo

Cindy Uetz

Kelly Woodard

#### 1. Round Table Directors

**Anonymous Reporting – Wendy Osikafo would like it on a future agenda. Change to Penal Code 11167a. She is concerned about her workers and how to train them in procedures. She wants this to be discussed at future meetings. AB 2085 has changed as well. No letter from the state has come out. Donna Lutz said this can be infused in CCTA training as well. Wendy advised there will be more coming out tied to Domestic Violence. Discussion that mandated reporters should never be anonymous. This is an unfunded workload.**

**Actions: Kelly Woodard will reach out to the Regional Chairs and have them start discussing and bring back to this group.**

**Directors to discuss with other Directors; perhaps a hot topic at CWDA.**

**Record keeping was also discussed. Lawsuits have come up, going back as far as 1965. Any new lawsuits will not have a statute of limitation. Discussion of phone called coming in with allegations. Some use Calabrio, a call center for the weekends. Wendy advised all CWS records must be kept forever (75 years).**

**Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP funding question from Christine? What do you use to match that? Several people said RGA; General Assistance. Discussion included funding requires 50% match.**



- 2. Realignment 1991 and 2011 - Realignment – David Foster**  
Document passed out. David discussed his thoughts on the proposed changes. Income tax is 25 percent, sales tax is flat. In House Supportive Services (IHSS has a calculator on their website. The Group requested the Fiscal Group be prepared to discuss in February to include Local Implications, Governors Budget, Housing, Prevention Funding, one-time funds. Implications and Prioritizing. IHSS Contract ends, mandatory 4%. Care Court Costs.  
Action: Kelly to discuss above list with Fiscal.
- 3. Discussion of another meeting in the Summer. The group felt there was too big a pause between February and August. After some discussion, it was decided the Directors would meet in April. Before meeting over April 18 and 19 2024 booked. Directors will stay the evening of April 18, and meet early on April 19, 2024.**
- 4. Training Advisory Meeting – Kelly Woodard/David Foster/Donna Lutz**  
David Foster and Linda Belch have been co-chairing the CCTA Training Advisory Committee. The group has grown. The meeting schedule was discussed with the group with the possibility of moving to quarterly; the group wants a monthly meeting. Discussions have included training needs, and workforce. Those that attend have people that are assigned to different program areas. The workforce continues to be the biggest topic. Shanel Moore and Kate Acosta from Academy discuss initiatives with the group to include Leadership and READI. David Foster has shared the CalSWEC issues and implications.

David Foster said we can expect to see a decrease in students due to the Stipend. His concern was that students would be pushed away from our doors and into other Social Work Practice venues.

Anita Barbee is moving forward with a study to produce recommendations on assignment approaches in child welfare based on skills and abilities. She has done good work in other states. The study is being funded by the RTAs. She has a team to include Barry Johnson. He has history in California. The goal is to develop information about potential ways to use the workforce and improve retention.

Donna Lutz advised that Anita Sanchez, from CCTA worked with Madera County on a qualitative project. One thing that came out of her work was acknowledgement the work is hard; but they have passion for the work. Kelly said they meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. December was cancelled. Resuming regular meeting schedule in January.

**Donna discussed the first Fiscal Webinar with Trainers Atonya Moore and Carol Haynes. It is available on CACWT. The goal is to have training available as people start, leave the agency and new people need prompt training.**

- 5. Budget CCASSC 2024 – Discussion approval December 2023 – Donna Lutz & Kelly Woodard. Donna Lutz distributed budget documents. The proposal was to support option two which is a slight, \$6,800 increase to \$172, 321. This increase is tied to hotel, food, room for meeting and an additional student stipend recipient. CCASSC has a reserve of about \$150,000 in a trust account. All CCASSC funds are with the foundation.**

**As requested, Kelly Woodard presented a Scope of Work for Marcus Crawford. The Budget was recommended for passage by Deborah Martinez and was approved by proposal was passed and voted on unanimously by those present. Invoices will be sent out in January.**

**Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**February 22, 23, 2024 – Fiscal**

**April 19, 2024 – Special Meeting Directors (reservations for Hotel April 18, 2024)**

**August 15, 16, 2024 – Adult Welfare**

**October 24, 25, 2024 – Self Sufficiency**

**December 12, 13, - Child Welfare**