

Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda

February 3, 2023 10am-11:30am

Zoom Webinar (Registration Required)

Policy Focus for February:

Continuum of Care Reform - A Decade in Review

In 2011, the California Legislature directed the California Department of Social Services to reduce the child welfare system's dependence on congregate care. This effort, known as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), has two end goals: (1) for children and youth in foster care to receive the supports and services they need to stabilize, heal and thrive in nurturing family homes, and (2) for congregate care settings to become places where children and youth receive targeted, short-term interventions to enable them to return to family settings. Multiple reforms were identified to ensure: an adequate supply of high-quality relative and foster homes; the accessibility of critical services for children and youth in home-based settings; and updated performance tracking mechanisms and data collection systems. The February Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will highlight the perspectives of state and county stakeholders, youth, providers, and advocates about the broader impact of CCR in California.

Overview:

- a. Continuum of Care Reform: A Decade in Review
Angie Schwartz, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services Division, Angie.Schwartz@dss.ca.gov
California Department of Social Services, cdss.ca.gov

Panel:

- b. County Efforts to Effectively Implement CCR
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director, csend@cwda.org
County Welfare Directors Association of California, cwda.org
- c. Continuum of Love: A Youth-Centered Perspective on CCR
Jasmine Harris, Statewide Membership Council Co-Chair, jasmine@calyouthconn.org
California Youth Connection, calyouthconn.org
- d. Hopes, Dreams and Realities of CCR: Perspectives from the Field
Chris Stoner-Mertz, Chief Executive Officer, chris@cacfs.org
California Alliance of Child and Family Services, cacfs.org
- e. Families Not Facilities: Recommitting to the CCR Vision
Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director, jrodriguez@ylc.org
Youth Law Center, ylc.org
Quality Parenting Initiative, qpi4kids.org

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: March 3, 2023
Topic: TBA

*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

**Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: childrennow.org/cwroundtable

***Please contact Susanna Kniffen at skniffen@childrennow.org if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.