

Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda

May 5, 2023 10am-11:30am

Zoom Webinar ([Registration Required](#))

Policy Focus for May:

Improving Access to Community-Based Behavioral Health Supports for Youth in the Child Welfare System

Children and youth in foster care have experienced abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences that can negatively impact their mental health. In fact, half of all children and youth in foster care have endured four or more adverse childhood experiences. As a result of this trauma, children and youth in foster care are up to six times more likely than their peers to experience mental health challenges. Recent state reforms to the Medi-Cal system simplified access criteria to now allow children and youth in foster care to more easily access specialty mental health services based on their history of trauma. Other initiatives and proposed reforms further seek to improve access to community-based behavioral health supports for children and youth in the child welfare system. However, more work is needed to ensure these reforms are implemented successfully and benefit children and youth in foster care as intended, as well as to fill remaining gaps in the continuum of community-based supports and services. The May Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will examine this issue, including highlighting recent reforms as well as opportunities and challenges to providing important community-based behavioral health supports and services to children and youth in foster care.

Panel:

- a. Changes to Specialty Mental Health Services Access Criteria for the Child Welfare Population and Related Reforms
Erika Cristo, Assistant Deputy Director, Behavioral Health, erika.cristo@dhcs.ca.gov
California Department of Health Care Services, dhcs.ca.gov
- b. Meeting the Needs of Children and Youth in Care: A Lived-Experience Perspective on Mental Health
Galilea Carrasco, Chair, Orange County Chapter, galilea@calyouthconn.org
California Youth Connection, calyouthconn.org
- c. Community-Based Services for Foster Youth: A Provider Perspective
Leticia Galyean, CEO/President, leticia_galyean@senecacenter.org
Seneca Family of Agencies, senecafoa.org
- d. Realizing the Promise of Reforms: An Advocate's Perspective
Carly Myers, Staff Attorney, myers@healthlaw.org
National Health Law Program, healthlaw.org
- e. Opportunities and Challenges to Improving Access: A County Perspective
Makayla James, Senior Policy Advocate, mjames@cbhda.org
California Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, cbhda.org

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: June 2, 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.