

**Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda
May 3, 2024 10am-11:30am**

Zoom Webinar (Registration Required)

Policy Focus for May:

Homelessness Amongst California's Youth

In recent years, California has taken multiple steps to address homelessness amongst our young people. However, more work remains to be done as, according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), California accounted for one-third of the nation's homeless youth in 2023 (10,173 people) and 49% of all unsheltered unaccompanied youth (6,934). These numbers may undercount the actual homeless youth population; the National Alliance to End Homelessness notes that homeless youth are particularly difficult to count as they may be afraid or unwilling to enter shelters, and communities typically have few resources, beds, and units dedicated to youth. In addition, youth are often not engaged in traditional homeless assistance programs and congregate in different areas than older individuals experiencing homelessness. Homelessness among some groups of youth is significantly disproportionate. For example, while 10% of the general population identify as LGBTQ+, LGBTQ+ youth comprise up to 40% of the homeless youth population. In addition, 33.9% of all homeless youth are African American and 24.4% are Hispanic. Per the CalYOUTH Study, 24.6% of California's foster youth experienced homelessness and 36% experienced housing instability and couch surfing between ages 18 and 21. Once youth leave foster care, at least 1 in 4 (25.4%) experience homelessness before turning 24 years old. The May Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will examine this issue, including highlighting existing youth housing programs and their positive impacts, ongoing challenges meeting the housing needs of youth, and opportunities to increase youth access to housing.

Overview:

- a. Youth & Young Adult Homelessness in CA: Data Overview
Cody Zeger, Policy Director, cody.zeger@bcsh.ca.gov
Shahera Hyatt, Council Analyst, shahera.hyatt@bcsh.ca.gov
California Interagency Council on Homelessness, bcsh.ca.gov/calich

Panel:

- b. Perspectives from Youth with Lived Experience
Zak Franet
- c. SB 1079 (Menjivar): Youth Housing Bond Act of 2024
Sherilyn Adams, Chief Executive Officer, sadams@larkinstreetyouth.org
Larkin Street Youth Services, larkinstreetyouth.org
- d. AB 2674 (Shiavo): The California Affordable and Foster Youth Housing Finance Innovation Act
Daniel Heimpel, Founder, dheimpel@goodriverpartners.com
Kevin Clark, Senior Director, kclark@goodriverpartners.com
Good River Partners, goodriverpartners.com
- e. Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program and AB 2520 (Ramos): Housing: Youth-Specific Processes and Coordinated Entry Systems
Kim Lewis, Partner, kim@lewisadvocacy.com
Lewis Advocacy, lewisadvocacy.com

Open Discussion

**Next Roundtable Meeting: June 7, 2024
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.