

**Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda  
February 6, 2026 10am-11:30am**

**Zoom Webinar ([Registration Required](#))**

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**Policy Focus for February:**

**Understanding California's Child Welfare System: Data, Pathways, and Outcomes**

February's Roundtable will focus broadly on understanding the child welfare system, including what we know (and what we still need to know) about children, youth, and young adults who experience child welfare involvement in California. Researchers from California Child Welfare Indicators Project and the Transition-Age Youth Research and Evaluation Hub at UC Berkeley will provide an overview of the child welfare services system, including definitions of key terms and the prevalence of system involvement. They will also discuss common pathways of children through the system and outcomes, including family reunification, and how system involvement varies across geography and over time. The Roundtable will highlight outcomes for young adults in extended foster care, including measures of educational attainment and employment. We will also share key lessons from the CalYOUTH study, a landmark longitudinal study that has helped California better understand the experiences and outcomes of youth as they transition from adolescence to adulthood.

**Panel:**

**a. Understanding Child Welfare Data in California: Who is Served and How the System Works**

Anthony Gómez, PhD

Research Specialist, Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub (TAY-Hub), UC Berkeley

[anthonygomez@berkeley.edu](mailto:anthonygomez@berkeley.edu)

Wendy Wiegmann, PhD

Project Director, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), UC Berkeley

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**b. Extended Foster Care and Outcomes for Adolescents and Young Adults**

Andi Lane Eastman, PhD

Project Director, Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub (TAY-Hub), UC Berkeley

Research Associate Professor, Children's Data Network, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

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**c. Lived Experience Perspective: Why Research and Policy Matter**

Christian Sotomayor

Graduate Student Worker, TAY-Hub

Master of Public Policy Candidate, Goldman School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley

[csotomayor@berkeley.edu](mailto:csotomayor@berkeley.edu)

**Open Discussion**

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**Next Roundtable Meeting: March 6, 2025**

**Topic: TBD**

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\*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](https://childrennow.org/cwroundtable)

\*\*\*Please contact Susanna Kniffen at [skniffen@childrennow.org](mailto: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.