

Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda

April 10, 2026

In-Person: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Legislative Swing Space, 1021 O Street, Room 6010

Zoom Option: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., ([register here](#))

Policy Focus for April:

Tiered Foster Care Rate Structure

April's Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will highlight the Tiered Foster Care Rate Structure, a groundbreaking reform set to take effect on July 1, 2027. Under the Tiered Rate Structure, funding will follow the child rather than the placement, allowing resource families to receive consistent levels of support regardless of setting and helping youth remain in stable, family-based environments whenever possible. All youth in foster care will receive funding for care, supervision, and strength building activities, with additional resources available for those with urgent or complex needs across any placement type, including care with relatives or extended family members. This approach represents a critical step toward ensuring foster youth receive the support they need to thrive, leading to better outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

Panel:

a. Overview and History of TRS

Angie Schwartz, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, angie.schwartz@dss.ca.gov
California Department of Social Services, cdss.ca.gov

b. Strength Building Program Overview and Impact

Kristina Tanner, Special Projects Coordinator, ktanner@ylc.org
Youth Law Center, youthlaw.org

c. Wraparound Immediate Needs Program and Impact

Alex Briscoe, Principal, Strategy and Systems Change, alex@publicworksalliance.org
Public Works Alliance, publicworksalliance.org

d. Care and Supervision and Creating Kin-First Culture

Jenn Rexroad, Executive Director, jrexroad@cacaregivers.org
California Alliance of Caregivers, cacaregivers.org

e. Creating a Child Well-Being System and Intersection to Prevention and Reunification

Janay Eustace, President & CEO, jeustace@thecapcenter.org
The Child Abuse Prevention Center, thecapcenter.org

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: May 1, 2026

Topic: TBD

*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.