



# Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee

The mission of the Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee is to provide oversight for and promote communication between the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Social Services and its related agencies, and the community, with emphasis on providing information and recommendations that make the system more effective and efficient.

## MINUTES

August 6, 2025

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Meeting held in-person for Committee Members and public.

Virtual option via Microsoft Teams for public only

### I. Call to order and introductions.

Rosemary/DSS Support Staff

- Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Rosemary Alanis, at 9:00 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

### II. Approve Minutes for June 4, 2025 and August 6, 2025 Agenda.

- Karina Lopez (District 1) motioned; Patti Scovill (District 3) seconded to approve the June 2025 Minutes and August 2025 Agenda.

### III. Receive Report from DSS CWS Addressing Critical Areas

Dalvin/Kim

- Child Welfare Services Deputy Director, Dalvin Baker, shared that the vacancy rate was at about 5% during the last year until recently due to the hiring controls and budget. As of today, the vacancy rate in CWS is now at 10.6%. Dalvin noted that caseloads are still low and manageable.
- Tracy Kashian (District 2) inquired why the caseloads have been low. Dalvin said that over the last 3 years, systems have been implemented to assist with case management improvements.
- The State average for Family Reunification rates are at 45-50%.
- An inquiry was made if CWS tracks how many kids in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) in Fresno County are not originally from Fresno County. Kimberli stated the Department of Behavioral Health would have that data.

#### A. Report-out: Youth placed in STRTPs Beyond One year.

Kimberli

- There are currently 8 youth who have been placed in an STRTP for longer than 1 year.
- Individualized efforts are being made to get youth into a lower level of care.
- The question regarding number of fully licensed clinicians at STRTPs should be taken by the liaison to the Children's Mental Health Subcommittee, as the Dept. of Behavioral Health oversees all clinicians and their respective certifications/licensures.

#### B. Report-out: Early Education Enrollment Data for Youth Ages 3-4 years

Dalvin

- Dalvin requested to discuss this request at the next FCSOC Meeting. Since the last meeting, discussions took place to have the Social Workers survey clients regarding early childhood education enrollment, barriers experienced and how the Department could assist with the barriers.
  - The data for the survey questions would then be entered into a system, but there was a technical error within the system that deleted a lot of the Fresno County Schools. CWS staff have the survey results, but they cannot be extracted at this time due to technical issues. IT staff are in the process of resolving the issue and answers to the request will be provided during the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Presentation: Division Chief, Jessica Carrillo - Placement Process for Foster Youth with Complex Needs

Jessica

- The Committee was provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation in advance. Below are key points and additional information pertaining to the presentation.
- Resource parents who work with high-acuity needs youth do receive Specialized Resource Parent Training, beyond what traditional resource parents receive.
- Jessica Carrillo is a Division Chief for CWS and Administrator over the Transitional Shelter Care Facility ("Mod-C"). Jessica's work focuses on high-acuity needs youth and locating placements to increase stability, the newest program for this is the Children's Well-Being Continuum (CWBC).

- Assembly Bill 153 prompted the creation of Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program (CCCPP – referred to as CWBC in Fresno County), a grant that Fresno County applied for, designed to close gaps in the existing continuum of care for foster youth with high-acuity needs who experience crises and placement instability. Assembly Bill 153 focuses on being trauma informed, and child and family centered.
- CWBC focuses on immediate stabilization, transition planning, and long-term therapeutic care with the overall goal of transitioning youth to the least restrictive placement setting.
- Layered services are provided in a home-based setting. These services include:
  - Emergency Enhanced Intensive Services Foster Care (E-E-ISFC)
  - Enhanced Intensive Services Foster Care (E-ISFC)
  - Wraparound (Wrap) and Super Wraparound (Super Wrap) Services
  - Integrated Practice Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS)
  - Interagency Placement Committee (IPC)
- Social Services, Behavioral Health, Probation, Public Health, Education and Tribal Representatives are all the agencies involved in the pilot program.
- The IPC is the multidisciplinary team that reviews all CWBC referrals. The Enhanced Interagency Placement Committee (E-IPC) is used for higher acuity youth or placement changes.
- The Primary Treatment Team (PTT) includes clinical team members and family/youth specialists.
- The E-ISFC and E-E-ISFC resource parents are Specialized Resource Parents. This means they have additional training hours they must complete and individualized training specific to the child's needs and culture, including things such as being trauma-informed.
- Every child who enters CWS receives an IP-CANS assessment. The CANS determines the level of placement needs youth have. Providing the CANS assessment periodically can demonstrate youth progress as they transition through key milestones.
- The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) is also used as an assessment. This model was developed by Dr. Bruce Perry and looks at individualized brain development and the effects of trauma.
- Some chronic indicators that qualify youth needing E-ISFC and E-E-ISFC are self-harm, aggression, fire setting, serious medical needs, delinquent behaviors and developmental delays.
- One of the key differences between E-E-ISFC and E-ISFC is the duration. E-E-ISFC is up to 30 days and E-ISFC is up to 12 months. Long-term therapeutic transition planning is provided if youth need services beyond 12 months by utilizing resources such as Wraparound and Medi-Cal treatment services.
- Promesa Behavioral Health and Aspiranet, Inc. are the contracted vendors providing E-E-ISFC and E-ISFC services.
- Wraparound services is a strength based, family-driven support model intended to identify de-escalation and risk-reduction solutions. These services are coordinated by a team of facilitators, clinicians and family/youth partners. This service is used to prevent higher-level placement or support step-down.
- Super Wrap services are based on the same model as Wrap: both services are for high-acuity needs youth and available 24/7, Super Wrap services are just more intensive and more frequent.
- Staff providing Super Wrap have more training than those providing Wraparound services.
- Central Star Behavioral Health, Inc. and Aspiranet, Inc. provide Wrap and Super Wrap services.
- Wrap and Super Wrap eligibility requirements are that youth must meet moderate to high needs on the IP-CANS assessment and the have recommendations from the child and family team.
- Long-term success comes from continuous transition planning.
- Further information regarding the current STRTPs process and the Qualified Individual (QI) assessment will be provided at the next meeting.
- The Pilot Program has quarterly check-ins and annual evaluations with CDSS.
- All specialized training is available to any resource parent, including relative placements.
- An "ST RTP failure" is when an STRTP sends notice that they can no longer provide service to a specific youth and a 14-day notice is placed. A step-down plan must be available upon entry to the STRTP and monthly plans should be provided that demonstrate what led to the step-down plan. As part of the step-down plan, it is a requirement that a Wraparound service be referred to and implemented as needed.
- The Committee had various questions regarding possible upcoming changes to Medi-Cal, but Wraparound services will still be supported and expanded for foster youth enrolled in Medi-Cal.

## V. Announcements

- A. Amended Bylaws, as voted on in the June meeting, will be going before the Board of Supervisors for their approval on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

Rosemary Alanis, FCSOC Chair   Kevin Lisitsin, FCSOC Vice Chair		
DSS Support Staff: Julia Perez	cwsfcsoc@fresnocountyca.gov	(559) 600-2328

**VI. Adjourn:** Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 9:00am, in-person for Committee members and the public. Virtual option via Microsoft Teams is only for members of the public. Please note: participation in FCSOC meetings requires in-person attendance. Virtual option is view-only. Meeting adjourned by Rosemary at 10:35 AM.

**Committee Attendance**

Supervisor Designated as FCSOC Member: Luis Chavez, District 3 Yahaira Figueroa, Chief of Staff and Proxy to Supervisor Chavez				
District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karina Lopez	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Lisitsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patti Scovill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Alanis	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Maisie Young	Vacant	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Korey Keith
Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant

**\* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended**

**Attending Staff and Guests**

In Person: Kimberli Smith, Dalvin Baker, Alison Samarin, Julia Perez, Hillary Bolger, Brian Van Anne, Kathleen Hernandez, Ron Alexander, Lucio Avila