



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

September 3, 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 9:02 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

II. Approve Minutes for August 6, 2025 and September 3, 2025 Agenda.

- Maisie Young (District 2) motioned; Tracy Kashian (District 2) seconded to approve the August 2025 Minutes and September 2025 Agenda.

III. Receive Report from DSS CWS Addressing Critical Areas

Dalvin/Kim

- Early education enrollment data for youth ages 3-4yrs is still pending due to state-wide issues with the data system. Pam Hancock (District 5) recommended reaching out to Head Start or the assigned Social Workers; however, Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director, Dalvin Baker, clarified the issue is not with obtaining the data but rather the fact that there is currently nowhere to put the data once received.
- The *Other/At Risk* category on Table IV of the CWS Data document means abuse of a sibling and/or substantial risk.
- When a referral outcome is categorized as "inconclusive", it may be sent out for differential response, which entails having a Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) to provide additional support.
- There has been some advocacy to extend how long youth can stay under foster care, but currently, youth age out of the foster care system when they turn 21 years old.
- Mod C re-entries have reduced due to various efforts made to meet the needs of high-risk youth.
- Errors were found in a column of Table XI on page 4 of the CWS data. Report will be revised and redistributed in time for the next meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Presentation: Placement and Services for High-Needs Youth

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.
- Current services for youth with high acuity needs include:
 - Mental Health Counseling with additional mental health case management support.
 - Therapeutic Behavioral Services
 - Intensive Services Foster Care homes
 - Wraparound Services
 - Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP)
- Every youth that is removed receives a standard mental health assessment, including infants. For high-acuity needs youth, there is additional case management.
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services are direct behavioral interventions designed by a clinician and a behavioral management specialist tailored to different environments (i.e., home, school, daycare). This service may be provided to any placement type.
- Intensive Services Foster Care can be attained through any Foster Family Agency (FFA) and they have more case management services and additional community services. There are also traditional intensive services foster care, which have developed teams.
- "Wraparound" is not a placement but provides additional services and support. Many of the wraparound services are Medi-Cal based, but private insurances have similar services.
- STRTPs are time-limited placements in a congregate care setting and are currently the highest level of placement care.

- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) requires placement in child-care institutions be Title IV-E-eligible changed the way children and youth were identified for the highest level of placement. New requirements apply to new placements into an STRTP made on or after October 1, 2021. The new requirements include:
 - Implementation of the Qualified Individual (QI) activities (referrals, assessment, CFT collaboration)
 - Court oversight of all youth placed in STRTPs via STRTP placement review hearings
 - STRTP Case Plan attachment – documents CFT and determination of QI
 - Implementation of family-based aftercare services recommended on QI Assessment for the 6 months after stepped down from an STRTP
- The Qualified Individual (QI) is licensed clinician responsible for conducting the QI assessment
- Two types of STRTP Placements: Planned and Emergency Placement
- The QI Liaison completes and compiles documentation, schedules CFTs and hearings, coordinates communication between all involved parties
- The purpose of the QI Assessment is to determine if the youth's needs can be met within a family-based home setting or if the STRTP placement is appropriate. Short and long-term mental and behavioral health goals are also developed using the QI Assessment.
- The STRTP Placement Determination happens in court within 30 days. Judge may make a ruling without having a hearing if there are no objections.
 - If there is a disagreement in the QI Assessment, it affects federal funding (Title IV-E funds).
 - If the court disagrees with the placement, the child must be transitioned to a different placement within 29 days.
 - All youth down from an STRTP to a lower level of care will receive Wraparound services. STRTP placements are currently receiving Wraparound services.
 - Youth that have been in an STRTP for over a year will step down to case management services.
 - Discussion of transition planning every month; STRTP treatment team must present what efforts are being made to step down the child.
- The Independent Living Program (ILP) team connects foster youth to community resources to assist them with the development of various vocational skills.
- The average cost of a monthly STRTP placement is about \$16,800.
- The average length of time spent in an STRTP placement is 9 months.
- A system is being piloted to notify schools when a child has entered a mental health facility.
- FFPSA is a Federal act that requires every state to create a comprehensive prevention plan. States are having counties develop their individual Plans of Prevention to provide better services and support for youth.

V. Subcommittee Update

A. Education

- Reach out to CWS FCSOC inbox if interested in filling the position to provide updates on the Education Subcommittee.
- CWS has been involved in the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) Networked Improvement Community (NIC) literacy program and there will be a presentation on this topic at a future FCSOC meeting.

VI. Announcements

- Proposed Amended Bylaws, as approved by majority vote in the June FCSOC meeting, will be going before the Board of Supervisors for their approval on 9/23.
- Quarterly CQI report-out will be presented at the November meeting.
- Plan for future discussion regarding 2024-25 FCSOC Annual Report.

VII. Adjourn: Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 1, 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 10:34 AM.

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

VIII.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
Vacant	<input checked="" 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, Cathi Huerta, Rebekah Eropkin, Julia Perez, Hillary Bolger, Brian Van Anne, Kathleen Hernandez, Ron Alexander, Kelly Sisowath