

30 YEARS
of youth voice



CYC

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
CALIFORNIA **YOUTH** CONNECTION





CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION



The **mission** of California Youth Connection (CYC), a youth-led organization, is to develop leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy, and practice change.



Our **vision** is that all foster youth will be equal partners in contributing to all policies and decisions made in their lives. All youth in foster care will have their needs met and the support to grow into healthy and vibrant adults.

STATEWIDE COUNTY CHAPTERS



Happy Birthday, CYC!



Introductions



**Kim Coronel
San Bernadino
Chapter**



**April Barcus
LA Chapter**



**Jordan Sosa,
Orange County
Chapter**



#FosterStability

a youth-led effort to create a
youth-centered process for stability
in all aspects of our lives:



**STABILITY IN
EDUCATION AND
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

**STABILITY IN
RELATIONSHIPS
AND LIFELONG
CONNECTIONS**

Every kid is
one caring adult
away from being a
Success Story

#IBDnc #CJC
#IBDnc #CJC-San Diego



**STABILITY IN
PLACEMENT**

**STABILITY IN
HEALTH AND
WELLNESS**



**We will create a system that honors and nourishes
the mind, body, and soul
of every child and youth
impacted by California's foster care system.**

The Legislation: AB2247(Gipson)

- Declare the intent of the legislature that children and youth should not experience abrupt placement changes, especially due to race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, religion and/or culture.
- Clearly defines a placement change process ***if*** a placement change must occur.
- Clearly defines the process which a placement change should **NOT** occur.
- Creates a process to enforce this process through the FC Ombuds office to document and investigate if needed. Reports/investigations will then be shared to the child welfare director for the purposes of training and continuous improvement.

What we learned

- Placement change procedures & notices (7-days) do not exist in WIC Code or the MPP anywhere.
- **Most system folks who we met with in the early stages, did not know what a 7-day notice was.**
- California does not collect data on placement changes in a way that facilitates a deeper understanding of who/what/where/when & WHY they are happening.
- Placement preservation services are not clearly defined.
- **We have a suspicion (based on anecdotes) that these abrupt placement changes are disproportionately impact our LGBTQ, youth with MH diagnosis's and youth of color.**
- There is no clear understanding or data that differentiates between when a social worker initiates a placement change vs. when a foster parent initiates it. Anecdotally, we hear it is maybe a 50/50 split.

Implementation Efforts



The Panelist



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Q/A

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