



**CWDA**

Advancing Human Services  
for the Welfare of *All* Californians

**2021 CWDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Driving Change From Within**

**Systems of Care: Connecting Child  
Welfare Services and Schools**

OCTOBER 13-15, MONTEREY CONVENTION CENTER

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# Systems of Care: Connecting Child Welfare Services and Schools

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# EDUCATION & FOSTER CARE

A History of the Education of Students  
in Foster Care

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# Key Events

FYS Established  
in 4 school  
districts

1973

FYS County program  
is established for  
group homes

1998

FYS Program is  
expanded to foster  
homes and crossover  
delinquency youth

2006

Fostering  
Connections to  
Success Act passed  
with education  
provisions

2008

FYS established in 1  
school district and 1  
county consortium

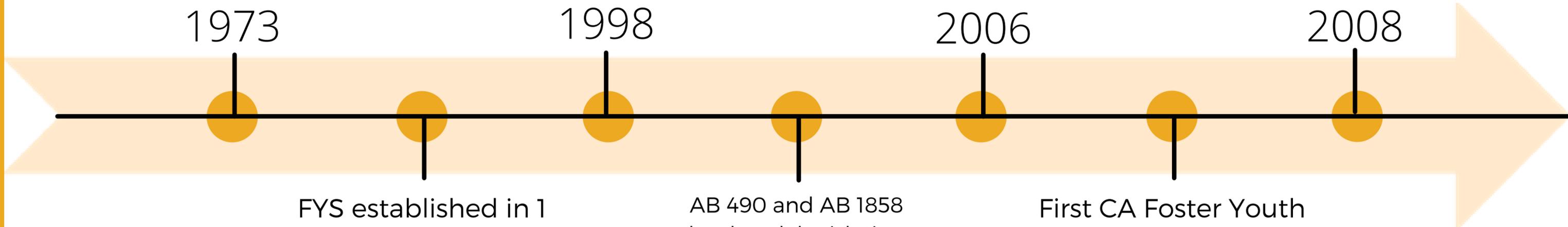
1981

AB 490 and AB 1858  
landmark legislation  
that provided  
educational  
entitlements to  
students in foster  
care

2004

First CA Foster Youth  
Education Summit

2007



# Key Events

AB 12  
Extended Foster  
Care  
2010

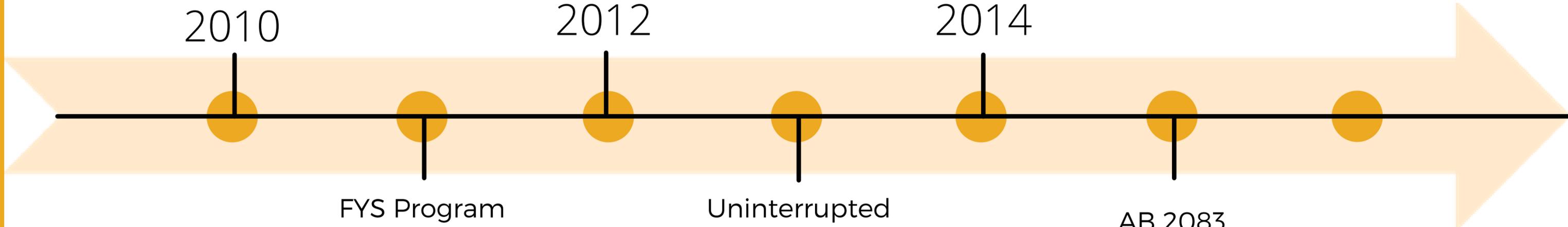
FYS Program  
restructured to  
consolidate  
Countywide and  
Juvenile Delinquency  
programs  
2011

Creation of the  
Improving  
Educational  
Outcomes for  
Children in Care  
2012

Uninterrupted  
Scholars Act  
clarifying FERPA to  
ensure that  
education data and  
information can be  
shared between  
CWS and LEAS  
2013

AB 97 students in  
foster care included  
as one of three target  
groups in the Local  
Control Funding  
Formula  
2014

AB 2083  
Systems of Care  
Requires each county to  
develop MOU outlining  
roles and responsibilities of  
various entities serving  
youth in foster care  
2018



# CFT & Education



## **ROLE OF EDUCATION**

- Education partners are "required as applicable" but strongly recommended participants in the CFT
- It is important for staff participating in a CFT meeting to know the services that a child may be receiving at school, including, but not limited to: health services, behavioral services, mental health services, and other educational support services.



# ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

THE ROLE OF SCHOOL CLIMATE &  
CULTURE

SEAMLESS SERVICE INTEGRATION &  
UNRESTRICTED ACCESS

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# School Climate and Culture

## **FOSTERING MUTUAL SUPPORT AND RESPECT**

- Schools should center on a climate and culture of mutual support and respect.
- There should be clear and accessible pathways for conflict and challenges to come forward as well as explicit and understood methods of resolution.



# Service Integration



## **SEAMLESS SERVICE PROVISION**

- The transition from schools and school staff to child welfare services and social work staff should be seamless.
- Seamless access to services via schools allows for easy referral options for substance use treatment, mental health services, and drop in centers where youth can receive support confidentially.

# Universal Access to Support

- Schools are central to young people's lives. This makes them uniquely located to serve as a hub for access to a variety of supports and services that any child may need, regardless of a pre-existing link to child welfare.
- The availability of high-needs crisis intervention via an integrated system of services is particularly critical for youth post-COVID as they continue to transition back to in-person or modified in-person learning while uncertainty around health and safety persists.
- For students that are struggling, teachers and on-campus adults need to have someone to call besides CPS.

# Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

## AN UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT IN OUR YOUTH

- Implications for workforce and school-based diversion from CPS
- Leveraging the Virtual Behavioral Health Service Platform



# Notes from the Ed Field



# Notes from the Ed Field

- LEAs are not all built the same
- Bring school partners in early
- Flexibility with school placements



# Q & A

## Discussion