2021 CWDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Driving Change From Within
Systems of Care: Connecting Child Welfare Services and Schools

OCTOBER 13-15, MONTEREY CONVENTION CENTER
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
FYS Established in 4 school districts
1973

FYS established in 1 school district and 1 county consortium
1981

FYS County program is established for group homes
1998

AB 490 and AB 1858 landmark legislation that provided educational entitlements to students in foster care
2004

FYS Program is expanded to foster homes and crossover delinquency youth
2006

First CA Foster Youth Education Summit
2007

Fostering Connections to Success Act passed with education provisions
2008
Key Events

- **AB 12 Extended Foster Care**
  - 2010
- Creation of the Improving Educational Outcomes for Children in Care
  - 2012
- AB 97 students in foster care included as one of three target groups in the Local Control Funding Formula
  - 2014

- PYS Program restructured to consolidate Countywide and Juvenile Delinquency programs
  - 2011
- Uninterrupted Scholars Act clarifying FERPA to ensure that education data and information can be shared between CWS and LEAS
  - 2013
- AB 2083 Systems of Care Requires each county to develop MOU outlining roles and responsibilities of various entities serving youth in foster care
  - 2018
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
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