**CFYETF**

**Conference Call**

**July 15, 2013**

**Participants: Margaret Jones, Jeff Belcher, Lacy Lenon Arthur, Mia Stizzo, Jesse Hahnel, Judy Morrison, Maya Cooper, Rachel VH, Katherine Fitzmaurice, Maura Keaney, Barbara and Devon, Laurie, Carol Gust, Karie Lew, Abbie Kauffman, Trish Kennedy, Betsy DeGarmoe, Chris WU, Catherine Giacalone, John Keane, Debbie Racuher, George West, Patty Armani, Alaina Moonves, Crystal Luffberry, Sasha Stern, Ann Quirk, Colleen Ammerman, Anjanette Pelletier, Riverside, Charlene Linley, Susanna Kniffen, Susan Brewer, Sandie Skinner, Michelle Lustig**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

No changes or additions to the June notes.

**II. Updates**

Budget Update:

This month’s budget update was provided my Maya Cooper from the National Center for Youth Law.

You should have all received the updates from Mia that NCYL sent out over the past several weeks.  On June 14th, the CA senate and assembly passed the state budget and it was signed by the Governor on June 28th.   This means that the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is now California law.

Many provisions within the LCFF represent a significant victory for students in foster care – as a quick summary, the state budget provisions affecting students in foster care are the following:

* FYS is preserved as a categorical program.
* California becomes the first state to include foster youth as a subgroup in their education accountability framework - API.   This means that schools and districts with 15 or more foster youth will be held accountable for their academic performance.  This subgroup size of 15 is below the size of 30 for other subgroups.  This creates an incentive for schools and districts to better serve students in foster care.
* School districts are required to develop and implement local control and accountability plans specifying how the district will improve the educational outcomes for foster youth.
* Exciting provisions on data sharing b/t child welfare and education.  New language in the budget requires CDSS to share with CDE information that is necessary for CDE to identify which students are in foster care and information that is helpful to meet the educational needs of these students.  CDE must share this information with school districts and COEs on a weekly basis.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Task Force members and foster youth that were part of our advocacy efforts over the past several months.

It is our understanding that some “technical fixes” to certain provisions will be happening in August.  That means that there may be some minor changes to some of the budget legislation.  We anticipate that the definition of “foster youth” in the budget language will be changed and consolidated. We’ll be keeping you all informed of any technical fixes if and when they do happen.

We’ll now begin to shift our focus to ensuring the new budget provisions that impact foster youth are properly implemented.  We anticipate that there will be a lot of work in the coming 6-12 months at the local and state level to help districts and counties interpret these budget provisions.  A few examples of the implementation process will include:

1. Ensuring the local control and accountability plan templates developed by the CDE have goals and actions specific to students in foster care.
2. Ensuring the API adopted by the State Board of Education contains incentives for schools and school districts to serve students in foster care.
3. Ensuring the California Department of Education provides school districts sufficient technical assistance related to improving the educational outcomes of students in foster care.
4. Ensuring the data sharing operates as intended.

There will be a lot that also needs to happen at the local level, as much of the decision-making is being pushed down to the school districts. For instance, there will be a new need for advocates to closely monitor the local control and accountability plans formulated by school districts and to show up at school board meetings to speak up on behalf of students in foster care.

We look forward to seeing the budget provisions successfully implemented at both the state and local level.  Please stay tuned for further updates and ideas for how you can help get involved on the implementation piece.

National:

Jesse shared there have been two states that have contacted Steinberg and NCYL regarding CA’s data sharing efforts. California is continuing to be looked at as a model. There have been national media around the new provisions and accountability framework, encouraging other states to adopt similar processes.

Texas is working on changing their enrollment paperwork to track students that have spent any time in foster care. Michelle Lustig added that we might want to promote this within our state as it would be helpful for high schools to know.

Sasha spoke regarding ECE and the budget. There is a little money that went back into early ed for preschool, childcare funding and sequestration. Universal preschools was one line item veto. She added that there was a move to get eligibility back to pre 2009, which also didn’t go through.

Legislative:

Susanna highlighted some bills as a follow up to previous conversations. Please refer to the updated bill list sent out prior to the meeting for more detailed information on these bills and others.

AB 216 : Many Task Force members have worked on the language. It should be passed into law sometime in August.

AB 643: Data collection/confidentiality. This has been passed and should be law fairly soon.

AB 595: Priority enrollment to EOPS program students. Some amendments taken to the bill say that if you don’t achieve academically at a certain rate you will lose right to the B waiver and priority registration. This impacts foster youth at community colleges at a disproportionate level, as these students are dealing with more changes and issues that youth their age are not typically dealing with. We will be looking at amendments to this bill.

Fact Sheets:

Karie Lew has has taken the lead on four of the fact sheets. There is still work to be done. Paige Fern, Ann Quirk, Public Counsel are all contributing. School Discipline is working is vetting and proofreading their sheets to ensure the language is friendly for diverse audiences. We will continue to update the Task Force on the progress.

Blueprint Conference:

This conference has a higher education focus and will take place on the 23th of October in LA. The call for presenters closed last week. Many good proposals were submitted and are being reviewed now. Registration should be open within the next couple weeks. Debbie recommends registering early if you are interested due to limited capacity.

Beyond the Bench:

Proposals are are being accepted until the 29th of July and must be submitted online. The juvenile court conference will be held this December. The focus this year is on juvenile court issues, juvenile dependency and delinquency. There is a lot of emphasis on issues that cross over, including education issues. Following Beyond the Bench (which takes place on December 2nd and 3rd in Anaheim) the Chief Justice is hosting a summit meeting with county teams on truancy.

Michelle Lustig brought up the idea of CFYETF members collaborating to submit proposals. Chris Wu added that there is room on the Beyond the Bench submission site to indicate interest in collaborating with other organizations or individuals on workshops/presentations.

The CFYETF is always interested in hearing about meetings, conferences, etc. that pertain to foster youth and education. If you know of any, please let Mia know.

**III. Administrative Support Position**

Jesse thanked everyone involved in making sure that the TF has received administrative support. Task Force leadership is working to ensure such administrative support continues.

**IV. Special Topics Updates**

The last Special Topics conference call was cancelled, as it landed too close to the 4th of July holiday and many call participants were out of office for the week.

Special Topics Updates by workgroup:

School Discipline

* They have a meeting tomorrow. On their last call, they circulated AB 1909 stakeholder letter and are working on getting some final edits.
* We know that youth in foster care are disproportionately impacted by school discipline. They are interested in the accountability pieces – LCFF suspension rates
* State board of ed issues – school discipline, Laura Faer, Maya Cooper, Jesse Hahnel
* Out of county students and 1909 are also an issue. They are looking at a possible legislative fix regarding that. They will continue to keep us updated.

School Stability

* Several new members have joined their subcommittee. They sent a request out to the TF looking for foster youth/youth workers/stories that might be interested in helping out with a training video.
* If you have a story/youth please contact Patrick and Lori. They will work out the logistics.
* School stability and students being moved to new schools within their district for discipline reasons is an issue that intersects discipline and stability. They will set up a call.

Post Secondary

* They held a call last month and nailed down a plan. They will be creating emails sent out throughout the year. They are contacting groups that can help them spread information on enrollment, financial aid, etc. Email Debbie for more information or suggestions.

Ed Advocacy

* They have been working on adding content to FEC on ed rep programs. An intern with Childrens Law Center is compiling a spreadsheet of information and available materials. they hope this will connect counties to each other and their programs.
* They are also collecting county practices on info for court reports. The TF will be getting an email on that later this afternoon.
* They are considering creating some additional materials, maybe a brochure on ed rights, for foster parents and caregivers.
* If you have any additional ideas on what to incorporate into their work in the next half of the year, let them know. You can always email Susanna if needed as well.

Data and Info Sharing

* Held a call on 6/27. Jeff Belcher presented his project to the group via webinar. Dana Wellhausen recently left her position at Stuart Foundation so they are currently looking for a new co-chair. If interested, notify Susanna, Mia and Maya.

ERMHS

* They are focused on helping people understand the new IEP process for foster youth. Their group did not convene this month but will be reconnecting in August.

Early Childhood

* Call on July 30th, so they will update us next month.

**IV. Next Steps and Close**

We will be sharing information on our September in person meeting in northern California within the next couple of weeks.

Our next conference call is scheduled for Monday, August 12th from 3 – 5:00 PM.