**CA Foster Youth Education Task Force**

**Conference Call**

**August 12, 2013**

**Participants: Jesse Hahnel, Betsy Degarmoe, Lacy Lenon Arthur, Mia Stizzo, Judy Morrison, Barbara Martinez, Jeff Belcher, Toni Marquez, Danny Morris, Martha Mathews, Carol Davies, Trish Kennedy, Michelle Lustig, Kyle, Angela Vazquez, Margaret Jones, Patty Armani, Ann Quirk, Chris Wu, Katherine Fitzmaurice, Karie Lew, Carla Martinez, Kadeejah Alam, Maura Keaney, Sarah Tyson, Katherine McLaughlin,**

**I. Welcome and Agenda Review**

**II. Updates**

Budget:

Michelle Lustig shared that you can give input on the LCFF without getting up to speak.

Michelle reminded everyone that FYS will be submitting their three year RFA in the spring. It could be a great opportunity for COEs to be seen as subject matter experts and align the plans to support students in foster care.

Local control and accountability plan templates are meaningful. Districts need to think about what will help FY succeed in school, and emphasize goals and actions.

School districts don’t have expertise in designing programs for children in FC. We need state capacity to provide assistance to school districts to help their youth in care.

*Maya Cooper from the National Center for Youth Law provided the Task Force with the following update:*

**CFYETF Budget Update for August 12, 2013:**

We’re moving forward on phase 2 of the budget work, which to ensure 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.

Should have received from Mia an email that NCYL put together for ways that you can get involved in the implementation process.  I’ll go over them now:

**LCFF REGIONAL SESSIONS BEGIN THIS WEEK:**  The State Board of Education and CDE are holding LCFF Regional Input sessions started last week.  We encourage as many of you as possible to attend these regional sessions to ensure that the educational needs of foster youth are addressed.  If possible, bring foster youth with you.  The dates and locations are as follows:

**LOS ANGELES & SAN DIEGO – occurred last Thursday, August 8th**, I attended and provided comment. Was very well attended, had to open up a second room for all the attendees.  Time well spent.  Run by WestEd. 3 different areas to provide public comment: 1) LCAP, 2) Budget & Funding Use, 3) Transparency & community involvement.

**SACRAMENTO & SHASTA CO – occurred today:  Monday, August 12th**

**BAKERSFIELD & FRESNO - tomorrow:  Tuesday, August 13th**, Primary Location: Kern County Office of Education, 1300-17th Street, Room 1B, Bakersfield, CA; Remote Location:  Fresno County Office of Education, 1111 Van Ness Ave., Tower Building, T101, Fresno, CA

All sessions began at 9:30am and ended around noon.  Attached to the email Mia sent was one-page handout on these Regional Input Sessions for more information.

Some ideas for things to say if you attend an LCFF Regional Session:

* Remind CDE and SBE of the reasons why the legislature and Governor made students in foster care a priority – including the poor educational outcomes of foster youth, frequent school changes, high rates of absenteeism, high disciplinary rates, etc.
* Share a compelling story about a foster youth who has struggled to succeed academically.
* If you bring a foster youth, ask him/ her to share a personal story about a particular challenge they faced and then something along the lines of "extra support from my school would have made a huge difference".
* Since many school districts have little experience and services to support the educational success of foster youth, let CDE and SBE know that they need to develop a set of model accountability plans for foster youth, with suggested goals and actions.

If you haven’t attended in person and can’t attend tomorrow’s in Fresno or Bakersfield - Comments, concerns, and suggestions may also be e-mailed to lcff@wested.org. Comments received before noon on August 13th will be included in the official record for the regional LCFF input sessions.

**Q&A HANDOUT – emailed last week:** To help with the LCFF implementation and clarify the provisions that will affect students in foster care, NCYL put together a short Q&A and it was attached to the email.  Please feel free to share with other advocates, organizations and your colleagues.

Please read thru the handout, has some suggestions for what each of you can do at the local level around implementation.  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.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS SEPT. 4-5 in SACRAMENTO:** We’d like to have as many TF members attend these next set of SBE meetings as possible and provide public comment.  Please mark your calendars!  If possible, bring foster youth and colleagues with you.  NCYL will be sending out more information as the date approaches along with some ideas for specific asks/ talking points to focus your public testimony.  Usually only given 1-2 mins.

**Need as many advocates, foster youth, FYS Coordinators, TF members, especially core districts as possible to show up at the next state board meeting.**

Please stay tuned for further updates.  I’ll be checking the SBE website to see when the agenda.

CA Leg:

Susanna Kniffen was unable to make the call to inform us about recent CA legislation, but did provide the Task Force with an updated bill list prior to the call. If you have any questions regarding anything on the list, contact Susanna at skniffen@childrennow.org.

Fact Sheets:

AB 490 fact sheet is close to being finalized. There may be transportation school of origin added. Ed decision making rights will also be ready for review within the next few days. School discipline is still being drafted – they are waiting for some potential charter schools information to add.

Betsy added that the ERMHS has been updated from the last Summit, so that sheet likely needs less edits.

We will set a deadline of September 1st – all draft sheets will be sent to Betsy who will send to a team of non-attorneys - James Wogan and Sandie Skinner volunteered to assist in the review. Any others who want to read these can contact Betsy. Karie recommends that the changed and edits be tracked thoroughly. After changes are made, we will send the revised documents back to the authors before getting on a conference call to discuss the suggested changes before sending to print.

Conferences:

Beyond the Bench: AOC is looking through workshop proposals. Mia will re-send the Save the Date flyer.

Carol Davies provided a Blueprint Conference update. The web site for conference registration will be live within the next few weeks. Check the CA College Pathways web site for more information. We will send out registration information, etc. as soon as it’s available.

On October 4th and 5th the NASW conference is taking place at the Marriott in Oakland. The emphasis of Caitlin Ryan, the keynote speaker, is LGBTQ youth.

**III. Administrative Support Position**

An anonymous donor has stepped up and provided support through June of 2014. Jesse reminds the group to begin to think about how to sustain that funding for the long term before the funding expires next summer.

**IV. Special Topics**

School Stability:

* AB 1909 template letters are being prepared to notify school districts of contact information.
* Data sharing. Jeff Belcher has shared some best practices. He’ll he sharing more about implementing AB 1909.
* All minors council offices and SS offices contact info is being compiled. This is especially important for out of county youth.
* The workgroup is working on a short webinar for September on AB 1909.
* Next call is September 10th at 4pm. If anyone is interested, contact Mia or the group’s chairs.

Data:

* Jeff Belcher has stepped in to co-chair the committee with Maya.
* AB 643 – waiting for Governor to sign it.
* Next info sharing hearing is 8/27 in Sacramento. The data committee is hoping San Diego County can provide a presentation on data sharing and tracking students.

Early Childhood Education:

* More child welfare members have been added to the group.
* They will be refining their objectives on their next call.
* Access to referrals, streamlining process.

**V. Next Steps and Close**

We will confirm the location of the in person meeting ASAP. Some topics to include on the agenda are:

Local control funding structures

Ed Summit 2014

We will also check in with Susanna and the Special Topics group to see if they would like some time allocated on the agenda for the September In Person meeting.