

Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda
January 17, 2024 10am-11:30am

Zoom Webinar (Registration Required)

Policy Focus for January:

The Legislature's Responsibility for Children and Youth in Foster Care

As of October 1, 2024, there were approximately 41,000 children and youth in foster care in California between the ages of 0 to 21. Robust policies and programs that prevent abuse and neglect and keep children and youth safe with their families whenever possible are critically important. However, when children and youth are removed from their homes due to maltreatment, the State assumes a moral and legal obligation for their well-being. Therefore, it is vital to ensure that children and youth can remain with their families whenever possible, are raised in nurturing and safe family homes when they must be removed, and children and youth in care have access to the supports and services they need to be healthy, succeed in school, and become thriving adults long after their experiences in the foster care system. The January Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will take a closer look at the legislature's responsibility to children and youth, including the importance of providing family support and engagement, nurturing homes, trauma-informed health and healing, and transition supports to youth as well as ensuring their rights are respected.

Overview:

- a. The Legislature's Responsibility for Children and Youth in Foster Care
Vanessa Spagnoli, CA Director, Public Policy, vspagnoli@casey.org
Casey Family Programs, casey.org

Panel:

- b. Responsibility for Family Support and Engagement
Janay Eustace, President & CEO, jeustace@thecapcenter.org
The Child Abuse Prevention Center, thecapcenter.org
- c. Responsibility to Provide Homes Where Youth Thrive
Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director, jrodriguez@ylc.org
Youth Law Center, ylc.org
- d. Responsibility to Ensure Foster Youth Rights are Respected
Ann Quirk, Policy Attorney, quirka@clccal.org
Children's Law Center of California, clccal.org
- e. Responsibility to Provide Trauma-Informed Health and Healing
Michelle Francois, Senior Director, Compassionate Education Systems, mfrancois@youthlaw.org
National Center for Youth Law, youthlaw.org
- f. Responsibility to Support a Successful Transition to Adulthood
Serita Cox, Co-Founder and CEO, serita@ifoster.org
iFoster, ifoster.org
- g. Why This Responsibility Matters
DaeJah Seward, Title IV-E MSW/PPSC Student and Former Foster Youth, daejahseward@gmail.com

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: February 7, 2025
Topic: TBD

*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

**Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: childrennow.org/cwroundtable

***Please contact Susanna Kniffen at skniffen@childrennow.org if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.