# 2016 FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT

Partnership, Practice and Capacity Building of LCFF

## April 11-12, 2016

## Sheraton Grand - Sacramento

# Program Guide

Hosted By

PRE K-12 AND BEYOND

CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION TASK FORCE

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CA Foster Youth Ed Summit

# Overview

The 8th California Foster Youth Education Summit will include discussions, presenters, and workshops detailing best practice ideas of comprehensive capacity building, practice and partnering that move LCFF forward.

In fall 2013, California undertook a major shift in education funding, through the adoption of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). In the course of setting up a new funding system for California's public schools, the LCFF requires changes in how California serves students who are in foster care. These changes bring with them opportunities for systems to establish stronger collaborative practices to address the academic, behavioral, social-emotional and transition needs of our foster youth through the use of data, development of case management structures and the strategic planning process involving all who interact with foster youth and educators.

**Registration Fees Cancellation Policy:**
If cancellation occurs before March 18, 2016, the registration fee will be refunded less a $25 administration fee. No fees will be refunded for registrations that are cancelled after March 18, 2016.

**We are encouraging the following to attend:**

- Child Welfare Staff
- School District Staff
- School District Leadership
- County Office of Education Leadership
- Youth in Foster Care
- Caregivers
- Education Rights Holders
- Group and FFA Homes
- Courts
- Advocates
- Philanthropic Community, and
- State Agency Staff

**Topics will include:**

- Inter-agency collaboration and partnering in practice
- Engaging foster youth and community partners in program design
- Implementation of foster youth education programs
- Promising foster youth LCAPs for districts of different sizes
- Best uses of new foster youth data in CALPADS
- New laws focused on improving the educational outcomes of foster youth

# Registration Fees

## $285 per Person for Full Summit Registration

## $225 for Students

("Students" are foster youth or youth formerly in care 24 years of age or younger)

## $200 per Person for One Day Summit Registration

**Early Registration Deadline:**
**March 13, 2016**
Full Summit Registration Fees will increase to $310 after that date.

# Schedule of Events

We are expecting a record amount of attendees for this year's Summit! In order to accommodate everyone, we will be doing a split lunch each day. You just sign up for the workshops, and we will let you know which colored group you are in when you check-in at the event.

## Monday April 11

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|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00 am | - | 9:30 am | Conference Check-in (at Sheraton Grand Hotel) |
| 9:30 am | - | 11:00 am | General Session Welcome & Chadwick Sapenter- Keynote Speaker (at Sacramento Convention Center) |
| 11:15 am | - | 12:30 pm | Networking Lunch for "Blue" Group |
| 11:15 am | - | 12:30 pm | Learning Session 1 for "Red" Group |
| 12:45 pm | - | 2:00 pm | Networking Lunch for "Red" Group |
| 12:45 pm | - | 2:00 pm | Learning Session 1 for "Blue" Group |
| 2:15 pm | - | 3:30 pm | Learning Session 2 |
| 3:45 pm | - | 5:00 pm | Learning Session 3 |
| 5:00 pm | - | 6:30 pm | Networking Reception |
| 6:30 pm | - | 9:30 pm | Youth Only Activity (everyone else on their own for dinner) |

## Tuesday April 12

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| 7:00 am | - | 8:15 am | Continental Breakfast (at Sheraton Grand Hotel) |
| 8:30 am | - | 9:45 am | General Session - Youth Panel (at Sacramento Convention Center) |
| 10:00 am | - | 11:15 am | Learning Session 4 |
| 11:30 am | - | 12:45 am | Networking Lunch for "Green" Group |
| 11:30 am | - | 12:45 pm | Learning Session 5 for "Yellow" Group |
| 12:45 pm | - | 2:00 pm | Networking Lunch for "Yellow" Group |
| 1:00pm | - | 2:15 pm | Learning Session 5 for "Green" Group |
| 2:00 pm | - | 2:30 pm | Legislative Visits Preparation |
| 2:30 pm | - | 4:30 pm | Legislative activities at the State Capitol |
| 4:30 pm | | | Summit ends |

**If you are not planning on going on legislative visits, your day ends at 2:15 pm.**

# Additional Events

## Monday April 11, 2016

**Networking Reception**
**Sheraton Hotel**
**5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

Please join us for an opening night networking reception before you head off to dinner. Catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Light appetizers will be served.

## Tuesday April 12, 2016

**Visit to the Capitol**
**2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

This year, attendees will have an opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff to highlight the educational needs of foster youth, share best practices from your programs, and discuss how state policy makers can support efforts to close the foster youth achievement gap. Everyone is encouraged to attend these informational visits to let the legislature know what is important to our youth.

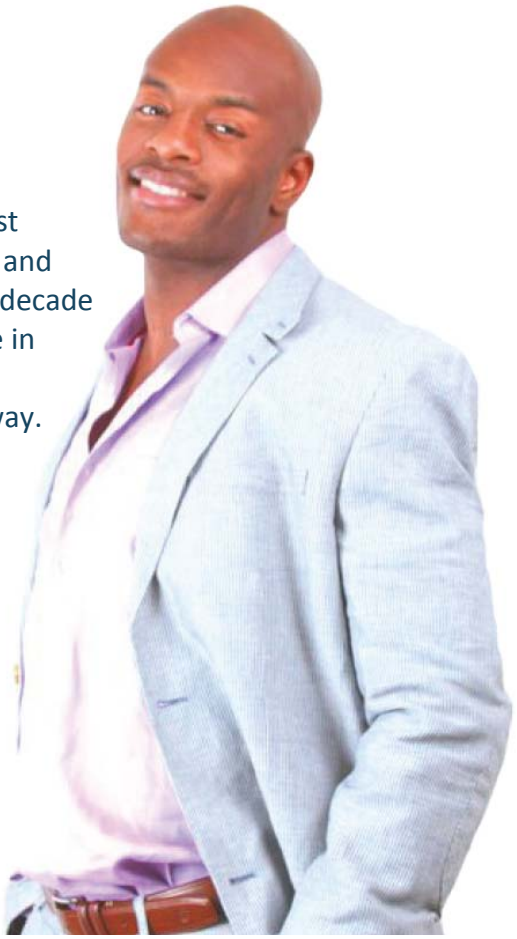
## Wednesday April 13, 2016

**Foster Youth Services Coordinators' Meeting (additional fee)**
**9:00 am—3:00 pm** (Breakfast starting at 8:00 am)

**Blue Prynt Restaurant Banquet Room**
(3 blocks from the Sheraton)
815 11th St, Sacramento, CA 95814

The California Department of Education (CDE) Statewide Foster Youth Services (FYS) Coordinators Meeting will be held on Wednesday following the Foster Youth Education Summit. There is a separate $85 registration fee for this event, but you can register for it in conjunction with the Summit. Agenda and details of the event will be sent directly to the FYS Coordinators by CDE staff. Breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee.

# Keynote Speaker



## Chadwick Sapenter

Chadwick Sapenter is a former foster kid turned serial entrepreneur, best selling author, and motivational speaker. Currently Chadwick is the CEO and founder of Little Book of Words Publishing. Chadwick has spent the last decade as a motivational speaker helping youth in foster care find their purpose in life and showing the adults who work in Child Welfare how to make meaningful connections and that a little encouragement can go a long way. After thousands of talks Chadwick realizes the best way for him to help is to share his story and experiences with passion and authenticity and to provide resources and solutions that can be easily implemented. When he is not speaking, Chadwick is home in Austin, TX spending time with his wife, three sons, and more likely than not ...eating BBQ.

**Note:** Chadwick will also be holding a workshop for all youth to attend. It will be offered two times on Monday.

## Hotel Information

**Sheraton Grand Sacramento**
**1230 J St. Sacramento, CA**
Sleeping room rate is $169 per night single or double occupancy.

**Link to make your reservation:**
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/CFI2016

Or call: 800-325-3535 and ask for CFI Foster Youth block.

**Overflow Hotel Options:**
We are creating a contract with the Hyatt Hotel for double rooms. Will have in place shortly.

# Session 1 Workshops

**Monday April 11, 2016** **11:15 am - 12:30 pm or 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm**
(we will assign you to a time)

**1A How to Make CALPADS Foster Youth Data Manageable and Actionable**
***Bridget Stumpf**, Project Specialist, Technical Services, Sacramento County Office of Ed., FYSCP*
***Shira Andron,** School Social Worker, San Francisco USD – Foster Youth Services*

COEs and school districts can now integrate CALPADS data with local child welfare and school district information in the Foster Focus data system. This presentation will explore tools that simplify CALPADS data management and highlight data management practices used by Sacramento and San Francisco COEs to prompt appropriate education intervention. Participants will learn how to:

- Compare the CALPADS and locally matched foster youth populations and address discrepancies.
- Track and manage changes in the CALPADS data as youth enter care or change schools.
- Utilize dashboard alerts and other tools to prompt appropriate and timely services for youth.

**1B K-12 Resource Centers- The Ultimate Collaboration**
***Theresa Reed**, FKCE Program Dir. Pasadena City College*
***Franchesca Ocasio**, Community Liaison, Pasadena USD*
***Dr. Jeanette Mann**, Chair, Community Outreach, Ed. & Public Policy, All Saints Church Foster Care Project*
***Student Worker***

Students who feel a sense of community tend to be more engaged. With this idea in mind, Pasadena has created the ultimate collaboration by opening resource centers on-site at local k-12 schools. The goal of the centers is to provide a safe place to maximize potential for our students. Come learn how you can do this too. Learn how to approach partners and gain insight into working with K-12, higher education, volunteer agencies and other community partners. Hear how the centers function including scheduling, working with staff and volunteers, supporting volunteers through formal and informal training, activities for students, accessing donations, materials and supplies, resource materials and keeping students engaged. Leave the workshop with an action plan on steps to move forward with establishing resource centers in your district.

**1C Life After High School: Preparing Foster Youth for College Success**
***Debbie Raucher**, CA College Pathways Director, John Burton Foundation*
***Maya Webb**, Program Administrator, San Francisco Foster Youth Services*
***Ralph Velarde**, Administrator on Special Assignment, Ventura County Special Populations Ed Support Programs*
***Lacy Lenon-Arthur**, Coordinator, Riverside County Foster Youth Services*

In today's world, higher education is the key to economic well-being and personal success. While foster youth currently trail behind their peers in educational attainment, much can be done before youth exit high school to set them on a path towards college completion. Come learn from FYS program representatives and youth about innovative strategies for linking students to post-secondary opportunities, collaborating with local college partners and ensuring that foster youth leave high school ready to embrace the next phase of their educational careers. The John Burton Foundation will also share a menu of options gleaned from across the state that you can apply within your local context to enhance your program's work in this vital arena and ensure that you are responsive to new requirements under AB 854 related to collaboration with post-secondary partners.

**Monday April 11, 2016** **11:15 am - 12:30 pm or 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm**
(we will assign you to a time)

**1D Managing School Stability for Foster Youth through Interagency Collaboration**
***Erika Mendoza, Aaren Cobb, Nicole Perez, & Phannga (Wiley) Keo,*** *Social Workers/Education Liaisons, Fresno County Dept. of Social Services: Child Welfare*

This workshop reviews the potential school change form and the discussions that occur between the Fresno County Department of Social Services, Child Welfare, School Districts, Ed Rights Holders and Minors Counsel about a potential change. Participants will learn how the form is used to monitor school changes, what information is included, who prepares it and how data is extracted from the form and used to inform practice. The session also includes a discussion on how the form creates opportunities for collaboration between agencies and strengthens the relationship between DSS/Child Welfare and AB 490 liaisons for school districts.

**1E Supporting District LCFF Implementation Through Collaborative Technical Assistance**
***Angela Vazquez****, Education Policy Manager - FosterEd LA, National Center for Youth Law*
***Jill Rowland****, Ed Program Director, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Blain Watson****, Child Welfare & Attendance Coordinator, Centinela Valley Union HSD*
***Mark Rodgers****, Director, Student Services, Bonita USD*

In light of the Local Control Funding Formula, school districts now have additional resources and increased accountability toward closing the achievement gap between students in foster care and their peers. While districts with higher numbers of foster youth students can more readily achieve scale with district-wide interventions, school districts of all sizes have the opportunity to leverage their resources for foster youth through stakeholder engagement and formal collaborative partnerships with local child welfare agencies. This workshop will present two models of community-based organizations serving as conveners and facilitators of partnerships between school districts and the local child welfare agency to coordinate services and build district and child welfare capacity to support education for foster youth students. Attendees will receive materials to use as reference points for developing their own local collaborative partnerships.

**1F Fostering Grit and Growth Mindset in Foster Youth**
***Eric Shamp****, College Readiness Program Manager*
***Damaris Pereda****, College Readiness Counselor*
***Soleil Delgadillo****, Education Program Services Coordinator*
***+ College Readiness Scholars***

We all know that there is more to success than talent, intelligence, luck, and even desire. Ask anyone who has “made it big” how they got there - they will surely tell you that it took a lot of effort and the attitude to look past failures along the way. There’s a lot of interest and excitement around the concept of non-cognitive skills and how they impact a student’s ability to learn and be successful. This workshop will explain the key elements of grit and growth mindset while showcasing activities that can be used individually and in group settings to develop grit and a growth mindset in students and adults alike. You will also hear about United Friends of the Children’s Education Programs and how it has applied this approach to working with youth, caregivers, and staff. You will walk away with a new framework as well as a guidebook full of individual and group activities to utilize with foster youth and those in their support system.

**Monday April 11, 2016** **11:15 am - 12:30 pm or 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm**
(we will assign you to a time)

**1G TIPS, Trauma Informed Practices for Schools**

***Michelle Lustig,*** *Ed.M, MSW, PPSC, Manager, San Diego County Office of Ed., Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program*

***Susanne Terry,*** *MPH, Project Specialist, San Diego County Office of Ed., Homeless Education Services*

More than two thirds of all children have experienced a traumatic event by age 16. These traumas correlate to health, education and social problems later in life. This session outlines a program for training school personnel on Trauma Informed Practices. We will outline: the physiological impacts of trauma; the Adverse Childhood Experiences study and trauma's life-long impacts; what can be done at school to create sensitive learning environments; and the importance of self-care and addressing our own traumas. Leave with a sample training outline, links to relevant studies and information, and relevant handouts and tools to use when training.

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #3**

**1H Designing and Implementing College Prep Programs for Foster Youth**

***Paige Chan,*** *National Director of Academies, First Star*

***Alaina Moonves-Leb****, Staff Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights*

***Patricia Armani****, CSA II, Education Unit, LA DCFS*

***First Star Youth***

Only half of foster youth graduate high school, and only 3% earn a college degree. Come learn how the First Star Academies, a national college prep program, have helped 100% of their foster youth graduate high school, and 90% of youth enroll in college. See how First Star partners with universities, child welfare agencies, school districts, and advocacy organizations in California to bring foster youth to live on college campuses, and provide long-term academic, life skills, and permanency supports to high school foster youth. Receive information regarding how to train foster youth to be their own advocates and policy advocates for other foster youth, and how you can set up foster youth advisory groups in your school district or child welfare agency. Hear from Youth participants from the UCLA Academy who will share their experience as foster youth in school and as advocates.

**1I A Courageous Conversation: The Impact of Unresolved Grief in a Foster Youth's Education**

***Foster Club Ambassadors***

In this session, young people will discuss the impact of grief and loss on their own educational trajectories. While not often identified as having experienced childhood bereavement, many foster youth are deprived of their loved one(s) through a profound - and sometimes permanent absence of a parent. Many young people report not receiving services to help them resolve their grief. Together with session participants, young people will develop ideas about creating a supportive and empathetic school environment for foster youth, while being mindful that every young person reacts different when experiencing relationship loss and bereavement. Join us for an opportunity to discuss this important but rarely addressed topic, and learn through the sharing of young peoples' lived experiences.

# Session 2 Workshops

**Monday April 11, 2016** **2:15 pm - 3:30 pm**

**2A Know Your Education Rights and What To Do If They Are Violated**

***Alaina Moonves-Leb,*** *Esq., Masters of Science Teaching, Education Program Attorney, Bridges to the Future Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Paige Chan,*** *National Director of Academies, First Star*
***First Star Youth***

Foster youths' education outcomes are the lowest in the state, even compared to other disadvantaged student groups. But, youth can do something to enhance their own educational experience. During this training, youth attendees will gain a clear understanding of their education rights and helpful steps for what they can do to protect those rights. Youth will learn about: 1) who makes their education decisions; 2) their right to remain in their school of origin or immediately enroll in their local comprehensive school; 3) their right to partial credits when they change high schools mid-semester; 4) their high school graduation options; 5) their rights when subject to school discipline; and 6) their right to special education services. Youth will practice practical steps they can take when their rights are violated to ensure they have meaningful access to a high quality education.

**2B Parenting Foster Youth and College: Challenges and Opportunities**

***Mara Ziegler****, LCSW, Senior Social Worker, Public Counsel*
***Barbara Facher****, MSW, Social Worker, Alliance for Children's Rights*

What if your all-nighter was because of a sick baby and not because you were cramming for finals? More than 1 in 3 young women who were in foster care at 18 will give birth before exiting at age 21. And if they are attending college, in addition to the typical challenges associated with enrolling, passing classes and earning diplomas, foster youth who are parenting are also faced with obstacles like finding and affording child care. With the right support they can over-come these obstacles and thrive in college but what kind of support is the right support? This workshop identifies the unique barriers to success these students face and highlights model support programs. You will learn to identify the emotional and practical challenges expectant and parenting foster youth face and what services, supports and resources are available to help address their needs.

**2C Answering Who, Where, and How with CalCRN Resources**

***John Merris-Coots****, Education Programs Consultant, CA Dept. of Education*
***Lauren Sneed****, Educational Liaison, South County, San Mateo County Office of Education*

This session will provide an overview of the California Career Resource Network's (CalCRN) no-cost online and mobile career guidance resources. Workshop attendees will learn about resources including the California CareerZone and California Career Center. They will be able to immediately begin using these tools to help students assess their career related interests (Who Am I?), identify occupational options (Where Am I Going?), and develop career action plans (How Do I Get There?). Attendees will learn how these resources are being used in a Bay Area Foster Youth Program.

## Monday April 11, 2016 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

**2D Building Partnerships between Foster Youth Services and College & Universities: A Model that Works**

***Dr. Carol Ann Franklin,*** *Dir. of the Student Success Partnership, Professor Emerita,, Univ. of Redlands, School of Ed.*
***Bernadette "Bunny" Pinchback****, Mgr, FYS Coordinating Program, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools*
***Catherine Walker****, Manager of Instructional Technology Services (ret.), University of Redlands*
***Victor Madrigal****, Riverside City College Student, AB-12 foster youth, Former Participant and Intern in Student Success Partnership*

For the past eight years, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, seven area foster youth group homes (over 50 youth), and the University of Redlands have been making the Student Success Partnership work effectively. The outcomes have been higher grades, increased graduation rates, career exploration, and successful entry into higher education and vocational programs. The Partnership provides in-group home tutoring, Saturday Academies providing enrichment utilizing resources of the University and community, and a Summer Academy program that offers high school credit and field trips to explore careers and colleges. Relationship building and communication have been at the heart of making this award-winning partnership be so successful. The workshop will not only provide participants with ideas and resources to help school districts look to their local higher education institutions to assist them in meeting their LCAP outcomes but also to develop a plan to address their needs.

**2E Improve Outcomes for Youth-Using System Wide Collaboration (Lessons Learned from System of Care Partnership)**

***Michael Lombardo****, Director of Interagency Facilitation, Pacer County Office of Education*
***Craig Gibbs****, Coordinator, Placer County Office of Education*
***Eric Branson****, Assistant Director, Children System of Care*
***Michelle Graf****, Student Support Practitioner, Placer County Office of Education*

Come learn about Placer County's System of Care – a 20 year collaboration and interagency system supporting foster youth. Under the Foster Youth Services Coordinating (FYSC) Program, agencies have an improved opportunity for collaborations to support districts and social services creating the best possible alignment for student outcomes and wellness. Hear strategies you can use to develop this interagency collaboration, receive tools, and see how a Multi-Tier Framework supports the changing environment under FYSC.

**2F LCFF Evaluation Rubrics and Foster Youth: Accountability for the Educational Outcomes of Students in Foster Care**

***Annie Lee****, Equal Justice Works Fellow, National Center for Youth Law*
***Molly Dunn,*** *Senior Policy Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Tim Morrison****, Senior Policy Associate, Children Now*

How will schools, districts, counties, and the State of California be held accountable for the educational outcomes of students in foster care? Through the LCFF Evaluation Rubrics! Never heard of it? Don't worry! This workshop will walk you through the statutory requirements for the Evaluation Rubrics and share the current draft Evaluation Rubrics, including the metrics used to measure the LCFF state priorities, the standards for the state priorities, and more. Additionally, you will be able to provide feedback on the draft Evaluation Rubrics, which the State Board of Education must adopt by October 2016. The Evaluation Rubrics are an opportunity for system leaders and education stakeholders to work together to develop a supportive and dynamic accountability tool that will facilitate meaningful outcomes for foster youth in California.

# Session 2 Workshops

**Monday April 11, 2016** **2:15 pm - 3:30 pm**

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #5**

**2G Organize! Using LCFF to Improve Education Outcomes for Foster Youth.**

***Martha Matthews**, Directing Attorney, Public Counsel -- Children's Rights Project*
***Darlene Neal**, Policy Analyst, Educational Equity, Advancement Project*
***Patricia Armani**, CSAII - Education Unit, Department of Children and Family Services (Los Angeles)*
***Youth representative from CYC***

Come get practical tools, resources and tips for organizing and advocacy at the county and district level, to ensure that LCFF process fulfills its promise to improve education supports and outcomes for foster youth. We will feature successful coalition-building strategies used in Los Angeles County and other areas; provide examples of talking points; sample LCAP provisions; LCAP review worksheets and other materials to use in meetings with district and county leadership, board hearings, etc., and share ideas, successes and challenges for Year 3 and beyond!

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #3**

**2H Where Are You Headed?**

**(Youth Only session with Chadwick Sapenter)**

How do you get from where you are to where you want to be? The truth is we are all going somewhere whether we know where that is or not. In this workshop Chadwick will help you identify where you want to go and show you how to get there by addressing where you've been, being brutally honest about where you are now, and asking you where you want to go. Chadwick will help you create a plan to get there. This is a journey of pain, discovery, honesty, freedom, and hope, but you will leave with a much clearer understanding of "Where you are headed".

# Session 3 Workshops

**Monday April 11, 2016** **3:45 pm - 5:00 pm**

**3A Early Learning and Development for Foster Children: Leveraging LCFF to Bridge the Child Care Gap**
***Molly Dunn**, Senior Policy Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Tim Morrison**, Senior Policy Associate, Children Now*

Quality early learning and development programs help foster children heal from trauma and give them the healthy start they need to be successful in school and life. Access to early learning and child care programs are also essential in the effort to recruit and retain loving foster families. Unfortunately, and paradoxically, even though California's subsidized early learning and development system prioritizes the enrollment of foster children, foster families and children still struggle to access care. In Los Angeles County, just 12.8% of foster children under five receive early learning and development services, and staff at LA's Children's Welcome Center, who search for homes for children awaiting placement, estimate that 25% of denials for placement were due to the unavailability of child care. This session will look at California law and policy governing early childhood education for foster children, identify the barriers that foster children face in accessing the early learning services they need, and explore how LCFF and other policy initiatives can be leveraged to overcome these barriers.

**3B AB854, Interagency Collaboration, and FosterEd**
***Casey Schutte**, Director, FosterEd: California*
***Kim Corneille**, FosterEd Project Manager, Santa Cruz County Office of Education*
***Harvey Kawasaki**, Regional Administrator - Torrance, Los Angeles County Dept of Children and Family Services*
***Angela Vazquez**, Education Policy Manager, FosterEd: Los Angeles*

Signed into law in October 2015, AB854 changed the statewide landscape of educational supports for foster youth. Consistent with the Local Control Funding Formula, AB854 emphasizes the importance of improved interagency collaboration at the local level. Come learn about FosterEd's work supporting such collaboration in Santa Cruz County and Los Angeles County, with an emphasis on the relationship between the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP), school districts, and child welfare agencies. Emphasis will be on connections between FosterEd's work and specific provisions of AB854, with a focus on how implementation looks in two counties of such different scale. With plenty of time for discussion and interaction, whether you are from FYSCPs, school districts, child welfare agencies, advocacy and community organizations, or any other system – you will walk away with concrete ideas for improving interagency collaboration in your region.

**3C Blueprint for a Foster Youth Education Program**
***Jill Rowland**, Education Program Director, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Cathy White,** Foster Youth Services, Sacramento County Office of Education*
***Tricia Gonzalez,** Program Manager, Fresno County DDS*

As districts build foster youth programs, they struggle with one of the hardest to implement yet most promising of rights, School of Origin (SOO). Utilizing a variety of tools, learn a blueprint for how to build a foster youth program, focusing on one specific example, SOO. The Sample Foster Youth LCAP will provide a SOO goal. The Foster Youth Education Toolkit provides SOO legal requirements, best practices, and tools to aide in implementation. Learn how Sacramento COE and Sacramento and Fresno Child Welfare are using technology to make SOO a possibility for their youth. Finally, learn the new legal requirements and receive implementation tools for AB 379 (effective 1/16) which allows foster youth to file compliance complaints when their rights are violated. The blueprint outlined during the presentation and the tools provided will help attendees create a comprehensive foster youth program including SOO issues and much more.

## Monday April 11, 2016 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #4**

**3D Start Early to Finish Strong**

***Rashida Elimu**, Guardian Scholars Coordinator, **Angela Aceves**, Guardian Scholars Coordinator, **Belinda Duong**, Student, **Elizabeth Underwood**, Student- Promises2Kids*

Intervention for foster youth often happens too late when educational professionals are tasked to try to quickly and efficiently give youth the tools necessary to move forward. To combat this, Promises2Kids has built and sustained educational programming that intervenes early and follows foster youth through their education and career. Acknowledging that many students may not be excited about higher education in a traditional sense, the Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars Program helps students make crucial decisions on educational and vocational opportunities whether they begin the day after high school or the day after college. Promises2Kids creates a brighter future for foster children in San Diego County. From the moment they come into foster care and through to adulthood, we provide the hope, support, and opportunities these special individuals need to change their lives for the better.

**3E Integrating Systems: Promoting Educational Success in San Francisco**

***Shira Andron**, School Social Worker, **Heather Smith**, Head Counselor, **Lonnie Webb**, School Social Worker*
*San Francisco USD- Foster Youth Services*
***Gloria Anthony-Oliver**, Education Liaison, San Francisco County - Human Services Agency*

San Francisco Unified School District's Foster Youth Services Program directly supports the unique educational needs of foster youth through a multi-level system of supports at the school-site, district-wide, and community levels. The workshop will focus on site based supports that can be replicated in your district, district-wide policies and procedures including sample policies, and strategies to leverage community-based resources to enhance supports. We will explain how we utilized LCFF funds to develop a comprehensive LCAP that added more district-wide case management support to address the specific issues of truancy, high school graduation, and school stability. Leave with concrete strategies and resources to implement these policies, procedures, and practices in your school district.

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #1**

**3F Designing and Implementing College Prep Programs for Foster Youth**

**See Session 1H for full workshop description**

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #3**

**3G Where Are You Headed? (youth only session with Chadwick Sapenter)**

**See Session 2H for full workshop description**

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #5**

**3H "I Can Afford College" Statewide Financial Aid Awareness Campaign**

***Amanda Davis**, Program Manager, "I Can Afford College"*
***Paige Marlatt Dorr**, Director of Communications, California Community College Chancellor's Office*

Did you know that the "I Can Afford College" statewide financial awareness campaign offers a multitude of free resources to share with students about their financial aid options? Attend this workshop to learn more about the resources available, and connect directly with the "I Can" campaign, as well as receive samples of informational materials, including the campaign's Foster Youth brochure, and more! The heart of the campaign is our bilingual English and Spanish website, www.icanaffordcollege.com, which provides current and prospective students valuable financial aid information and direct links to applications, and connects them with professionals at their local college to receive free one-one-one assistance with the application process. We invite you to join us for an overview of program activities, as well as get information on the various resources that we have available to assist in your work and interactions directly with foster youth, your communities and your partners. Don't miss this opportunity!

# Session 4 Workshops

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** **10:00 am - 11:15 am**

**4A Tutor Connection with the San Diego County Office of Education**

***Michelle Bailow**, Tutor Connection Program Supervisor, San Diego County Office of Education*
***Randal Hensley,** Student, California State University San Marcos*

What is Tutor Connection? A collaborative program that provides high-quality, free in home tutoring services to current foster youth between ages 5-18. Learn about the dual benefits this program provides. Youth that are in the tutor connection program are able to get the extra help and attention that they may not get in school which helps build self-esteem and academic progress. The tutors are future teachers, enrolled in CSUSM's College of Education. They learn in class how foster youth are affected academically from their life situation. They get hands on experience with a foster youth and they experience their struggles and learn ways to engage and help support them while they are tutoring but also gives them the knowledge how to better help support these students when they do become classroom teachers. This win-win program is a joint effort between San Diego County Office of Ed, Foster Youth Services, CSU San Marcos, College of Ed, and San Diego County Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services.

**4B Implementation and Support of LAUSD's Foster Youth Achievement Program**

***Erika Torres**, Director, Pupil Services, Los Angeles USD*
***Darlene Neal**, Policy Analyst, Advancement Project*
***Jill Rowland**, Education Program Director, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***La Shona Jenkins**, Coordinator, Foster Youth Achievement Program, Los Angeles USD*

Los Angeles Unified School District's has a new program: Foster Youth Achievement Program (FYAP), which aims to provide comprehensive services to improve attendance, maximize educational achievement and social-emotional well-being for all youth in foster care. FYAP is a specialized program within the LAUSD's Pupil Services Unit that is dedicated to enhancing educational outcomes and academic achievement for students living in foster care. Ensuring educational equity for youth in foster care also requires intentional, cross-system stakeholder engagement and local organizing to support districts in making meaningful investments in foster youth. These systems changes are supported through both an internal (technical assistance for program and district) and external (advocacy) approach at the Nation's second largest school district serving the largest population of foster youth in the State.

**4C Putting the Pieces Together: Foster Youth Service Coordinating Programs**

***Rachelle Touzard**, Coordinator II, CWA, Foster Youth Services CP, Los Angeles County Office of Education*
***Michelle Lustig**, Manager, Foster Youth and Homeless Education Services, San Diego County Office of Education*
***Betsy DeGarmoe**, Manager, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, Orange County Dept of Education*

Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego County Office of Education Foster Youth Service Coordinating Program leads will share innovative strategies on how they are implementing AB 854 within their counties. During this robust discussion they will cover how they are addressing the areas of: Coordination, Collaboration, Executive Advisory Councils, Reducing School Mobility, Tracking Data and Using that Data to inform program, Building Capacity, and Providing Exemplary Support to Local School Districts, Child Welfare, and Probation Staff. Each County will highlight a best practice that they are implementing within their counties.

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** **10:00 am - 11:15 am**

**4D San Bernardino Strong: Teamwork and Inter-agency Relationships that Serve the Educational Needs of Foster Youth**

***Lori-anne Elinsky**, Supervising Social Services Practitioner, Education Programs, **Francesca Villarreal**, Educational Liaison, **John Devine**, Peer and Family Assistant, County of San Bernardino, Children and Family Services*
***Angela Urquidies**, Principal on assignment for Foster Youth & Homeless Education, San Bernardino City USD*

Come to this interactive workshop on the benefits of data sharing. Who uses shared data? The Foster Focus database will be demonstrated and will show how School District Staff and Social Services Staff can collaborate to identify their foster youth clients in one of the largest counties in the state. Foster Focus is now capable of matching CALPADS data with California Child Welfare System data (CWS/CMS database). See how this match of two of California's largest data-base systems can identify foster youth at school district sites helping ensure the promise of LCAP benefits. Ultimately, the use of the database will help Foster youth to be better served with school district programs by being identified more accurately.

**4E We Are the Champions! Former Foster Youth Guiding Current Foster Youth toward their College & Career Dreams**

***Meagan Meloy**, Program Coordinator, Butte County Office of Education*
***Jennifer Cox,** Director of Education and Student Services, Oroville Union High School District*
***Roxy Luppino,** Education Champion (College Student), CSU Chico*
***Roxanne Vincent,** Champion Scholar (High School Youth), Chico Unified School District*

Modeled after the California Mini-Corps program, our new Champion Scholars project matches former foster youth who are attending Chico State or Butte College with current foster youth in Butte County high schools. College students are hired into Education Champion positions through the Butte COE. Our Education Champions support their current foster students' academic success with school visits, extra-curricular activities, home visits, and meetings with social workers and foster parents. The program was developed in partnership with the Butte County SELPA, the BCOE FYSC program, Chico State PATH Scholars, Butte College Inspiring Scholars, CYC Butte Chapter, Butte County Child Welfare, and local school districts. Attendees of this workshop will hear powerful audio interviews with our youth participants as well as a Q & A session with youth who were key in the development of the program.

**4F Adopting Best Practices in LCAPs around the State**

***Lillian Chen,** Statewide Education Rights Attorney, Public Counsel*
***Annie Lee**, Equal Justice Works Fellow, National Center for Youth Law*
***Kate Teague**, Bay Area Regional Coordinator, California Youth Connection*
***Miriam Yarde**, Alameda County CYC Member*

What were the best and most innovative ideas in LCAPs from the last year that removed barriers to educational success for foster youth? This interactive workshop will ask participants to analyze best practices in select 2015-2016 LCAPs from small, medium, and large districts that can be adopted in your district's 2016-2017 LCAP and beyond. Participants will look at LCAP actions in the areas of enrollment, transfer of credits, attendance, graduation, and healthy school climate, with a special emphasis on engaging foster youth, caregivers, and social services agencies in the development of the LCAP itself. Participants will discuss and develop ideas for what other improvements can be made for foster youth and also learn practical tips for engaging County Offices of Education in creating a new foster youth services coordinating program in their local area (AB 854).

# Session 4 Workshops

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** **10:00 am - 11:15 am**

**4G Foster Youth Education Problem Solving Basics**

***Patrick Hirsch**, Specialized Resource Attorney Liaison, Children's Law Center of California*
***Ann Quirk**, Education & Dependency Attorney, Children's Law Center of California*
***Martha Matthews**, Directing Attorney, Public Counsel -- Children's Rights Project*

This workshop will focus on the skills, tools, and resources necessary to successfully resolve educational problems for foster youth. Examples will include some of the most frequently encountered educational problems for foster youth, such as transportation to the School of Origin, obtaining immediate enrollment, implementing Individualized Education Programs when an education rights holder is unresponsive or unavailable, and resolving disciplinary issues without losing classroom time. Techniques for locating and contacting people with the authority to resolve particular problems, as well as tips for identifying resources available locally and online, will also be discussed as time allows.

**4H The Power of Youth and Family Voice in LCAP Design and Implementation**

***Moderator: Alexia Everett**, Senior Program Officer, Stuart Foundation*

School districts must specifically seek student input in developing their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP). While the state school funding law required that students, along with other stakeholder groups, be consulted as the accountability and budget plans were crafted, there was no specific guidance given to districts about how they should seek student input. In this panel discussion, foster youth and supportive adults, including caregivers and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), will share how they have used their lived experience to inform their school district's LCAPs. Learn about how some districts have solicited foster youth and family input and the challenges that remain to fully realize the vision of the Local Control Funding Formula.

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #3**

**4I Start Early to Finish Strong**

**See Session 3D for full workshop description**

# Session 5 Workshops

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** **11:30 am - 12:45 pm or 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm**
(we will assign you to a time)

**5A Actionable Data: Three Models for Effective Use**
***Virginia D'Amico**, Coordinator, Technology Projects, Sacramento County Office of Education*
***Dominic Covello**, Program Manager, San Juan Unified School District*
***Catherine White,** Project Specialist & **Sal De Leon**, Project Specialist, Sacramento County Office of Education*

Learn how to use shared education, probation and child welfare data to improve education outcomes and transitions for foster youth. Examine a system of dashboards and electronic alerts that can put actionable student information in the hands of frontline staff and how the information is used by:

- a district with its students
- a COE with the students leaving a detention center
- a COE with district students

Are you monitoring your LEA's actions regarding exemptions from local graduation requirements? Are the appropriate documents following students to their next school? Find out how to use the same system for this purpose as well.

**5B Social Media: How Adults and Youth Can Use if Effectively**
***Jenny Vinopal,** Director of Program, California Youth Connection*

Social media can be an effective outreach tool however it can jeopardize the reputation for those who share too much. Learn effective strategies on how you can support youth you work with to protect their "selfie"! Come to the interactive workshop to learn the latest social media platforms and how to teach youth healthy boundaries on social media. We will also explore how to use social media as an outreach tool for your organization. Bring your device(s) to participate in this hands-on session.

**5C AB 216 Essentials: Management, Lessons & Development**
***Jill Rowland**, Education Program Director, Alliance for Children's Rights*
***Kevin Givan**, MSW, ASW, Case Manager FY & Homeless Liaison- Lynwood USD*

In the effort to identify specific roadblocks and to improve outcomes for educational success for foster youth, AB 216 (Formerly AB 167) became law in California in 2013. School districts now have the legal authority to waive local graduation requirements to ensure qualified foster youth meet certain graduation standards. Districts, however, need keen information on how to implement AB 216 while also adhering to educational codes and mandates. The Alliance for Children's Rights will discuss the section of their toolkit that helps school districts use the new law. Participants will hear from Lynwood USD as to how they are successfully using the toolkit to work with these youth in their district. Furthermore, learn the steps throughout the AB 216 process and receive program ideas that may be useful in your district.. Discussion will include the use of Google documents to create forms, collect student information, and develop reports.

**5D Stand By Me**
***Foster Club Ambassadors***
Engaging young people in planning and decision-making regarding their own case plan —and in the programs and services that profoundly impact their own lives — reaps critical benefits to not only the young person, but to the community at large. Meaningful youth engagement must include partnerships between adults and young people - one in which each party has the opportunity to utilize skills, make decisions, and independently carry out tasks to reach shared goals. This workshop illustrates the benefits to youth adult partnerships, outlines best practices, and will challenge participants to evaluate youth engagement practices in their own work.

# Session 5 Workshops

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** **11:30 am - 12:45 pm or 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm**

**5E Residential Placement, Foster Youth, and the IEP**

***Janeen Steel**, Co-Executive Director and Founder, Learning Rights Law Center*
***Allison Holcombe**, Associate, Litigation, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom*
***Dean Conklin**, Postgraduate Fellow in Public Interest, Learning Rights Law Center*

Attorneys will walk participants through an ongoing litigation regarding a student and her LEA's unwillingness to provide residential placement as part of her IEP due to her status as a child in foster care. Attendees will receive an overview of special education law as it relates to residential placement, case background and insight into the advocacy strategy and will leave informed about how to better advocate on behalf of a vulnerable population in need of vital services moving forward. Questions and discussion encouraged!

**5F Grassroots LCAP Advocacy**

***Aubrey Abuana**, Central Valley Regional Coordinator & **Members,** California Youth Connection*

Grassroots organizing can be a misnomer; our goal is not only to nourish the many indiscrete verdant blades but also to enrich the soil and plant seeds from which grow the mighty oak. In this interactive workshop you will join in on the collaborative effort that gets school districts to be fiscally responsive with LCFF. Through meaningful discussions, our panelist will guide us through the essential elements of collective action to address the indispensable advantages and some challenges of gathering real time information on the educational needs of foster youth. This workshop will focus on techniques for identifying gaps in programming needs, establishing a highly responsive division of LCFF funds and using evidence based descriptions in letter writing. CYC's unique Youth Development Model will refresh and clarify the LCAP as a mode of maintaining responsive fiscal allocation.

**5G Closing the Achievement Gap for Probation-Supervised Youth: A Case Study on Collaborative Innovation in Santa Clara County**

***Atasi Uppal**, FosterEd-Juvenile Justice Attorney, National Center for Youth Law*
***Cassidy Higgins**, Mentor Program Manager, Fresh Lifelines for Youth*
***Julia High,** Equal Justice Works Fellow, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth*

Youth in the juvenile justice system face challenges in achieving educational success that are strikingly similar to those that foster youth confront. Among those obstacles are home placement mobility, gaps in school enrollment, inappropriate school placement, lack of special education services and a failure of communication between adults supporting the youth. Furthermore, research indicates that youth in the juvenile justice system often have prior, concurrent or future contact with the child welfare system. Come learn how state agencies and organizational partners can and should collaborate to close the achievement gap for these at-risk youth. Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY), National Center for Youth Law's FosterEd initiative (NCYL FosterEd), and the Superior Court of California - County of Santa Clara have designed a project to improve education outcomes for probation-supervised youth with co-occurring mental health diagnoses and substance abuse disorders. Hear these partners, along with Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) discuss the project's design, implementation, and strategies for success.

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #3**

**5H "I Can Afford College" Statewide Financial Aid Awareness Campaign**

**See Session 3H for full workshop description**

**This workshop is also being offered in Session #2**

**5I Organize! Using LCFF to Improve Education Outcomes for Foster Youth**

**See Session 2G for full workshop description**