# California Child Welfare Council

## A CALL FOR MULTI-SYSTEM COLLABORATION

Presentation to the

Los Angeles County
Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection

February 21, 2012

# What is the Child Welfare Council?

- Established by the Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 (AB 2216, Chapter 384).
- Advisory Body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve children in child welfare.
- Charged with monitoring and reporting how well child welfare programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care.
- May issue advisory reports as deemed appropriate.
- Required to report annually to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council and the Public.

# Who is on the Child Welfare Council?

## Co-Chairs

- Health and Human Services Agency Secretary, Diana Dooley
- Administrative Presiding Justice/Third District Court of Appeal, Honorable Vance Raye

# Who is on the Child Welfare Council?

## State Leadership

- Social Services
- Mental Health
- Substance Use Disorders
- Education
- California First 5 Commission
- Developmental Services
- Juvenile Justice
- Administrative Office of the Courts

# Who is on the Child Welfare Council?

## County Leadership

- Social Services
- Mental Health
- Substance Use Disorders
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Juvenile Courts

## Tribal Leadership

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Tribal Court, Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

# Who is on the Child Welfare Council?

## Legislative Leadership

- Senate
- Assembly

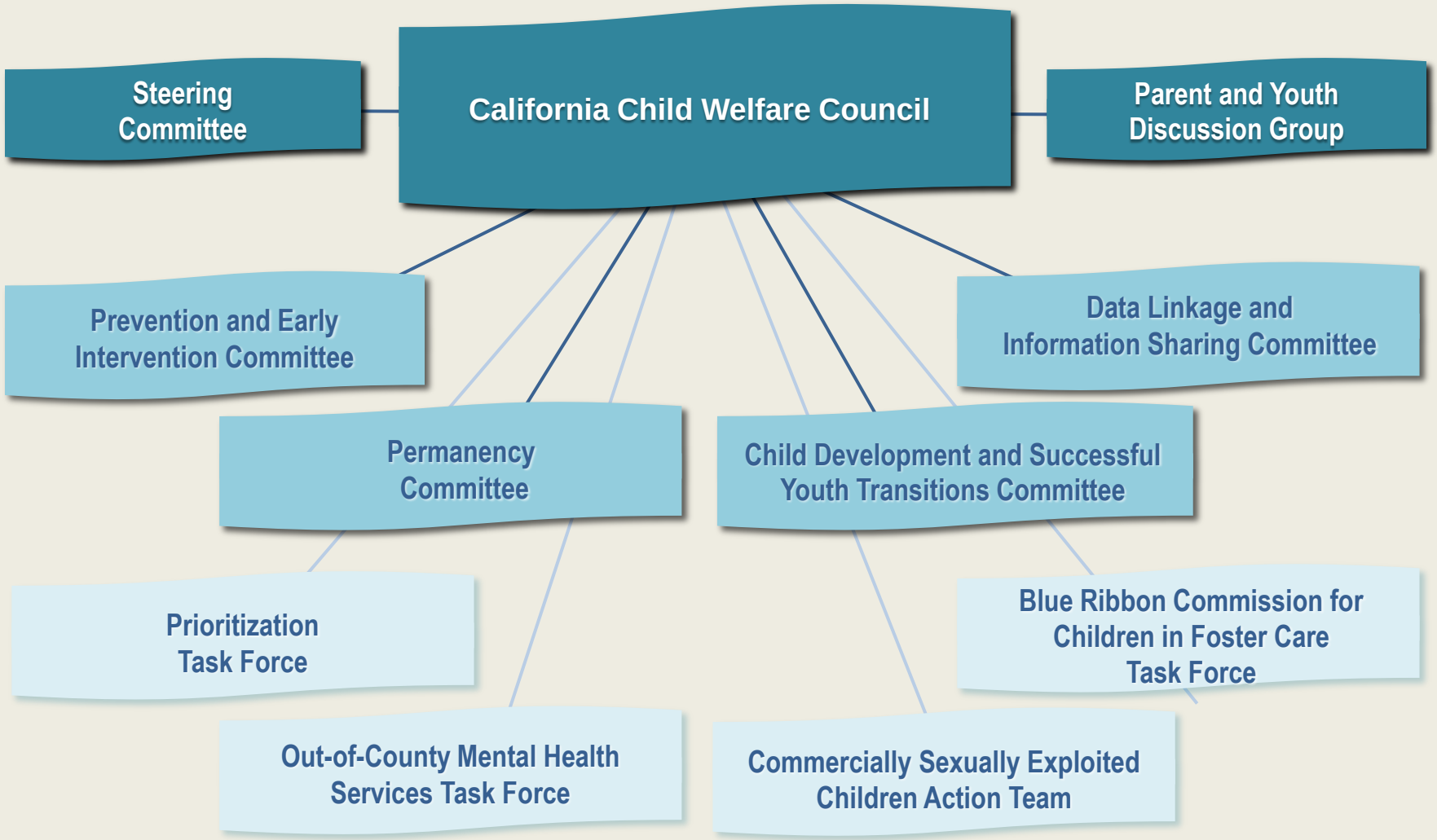
## Non-Profit Leadership

- Service Providers
- Advocacy Groups
- Philanthropy

## Consumer Leadership

- Youth
- Parents

# How is the Child Welfare Council Structured?



# How is the Child Welfare Council Resourced?

- Staff:
  - Half-time Retiree; Representative from AOC
- Facilitation Support:
  - State Social Services; AOC; Philanthropy
- Content Experts:
  - All members of the Council, Committees and Task Forces

# What Multi-System Collaboration Issues is the Council Addressing?

| Issue | Collaborators |
|---|---|
| Commercially Sexually Exploited Children | Child Welfare, Probation, Courts, District Attorney, Mental Health, Advocacy, Nonprofits, Universities, Survivors |
| Birth Parents' Priority Access to Services and Supports | Child Welfare, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, Corrections, Probation, Housing, Workforce Development, Courts, Philanthropy, Legislature, Consumers |
| Partial Education Credits | Child Welfare, Education, School Boards Associations, Advocacy, Philanthropy, Nonprofits, Legislature, Foster Youth |

# What Multi-System Collaboration Issues is the Council Addressing?

| Issue | Collaborators |
| --- | --- |
| Young Children in Foster Care | Child Welfare, First 5, Mental Health, Advocacy, Nonprofits, Universities, Foster Parents |
| Differential Response Services | Child Welfare, Family Resource Centers, Nonprofits |
| Federal Child Welfare Finance Reforms | Child Welfare, Probation, Nonprofits |
| Information Sharing, Data Standardization and Interoperability | California Interoperability and Integration Project, Education, Mental Health, Courts |

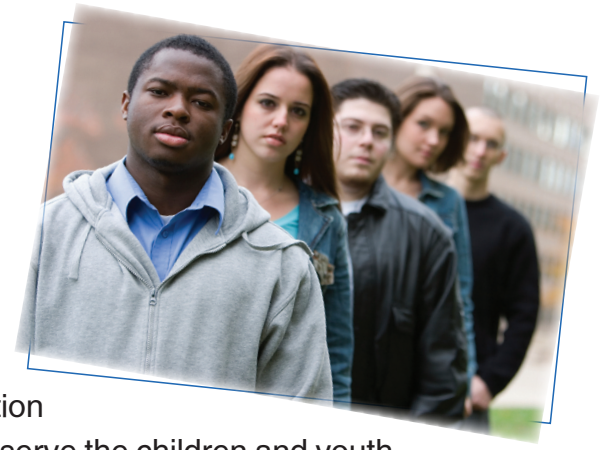
# How does the Council Foster Collaboration?

- Engage those who are most motivated
- Encourage use of informal ties
- Create incentives to participate
- Get small groups together frequently to create solutions
- Provide logistical/facilitation support
- Focus on goals and outcomes
- Partialize the problem

# How Can the Child Welfare Council Learn from and Support Your Work?

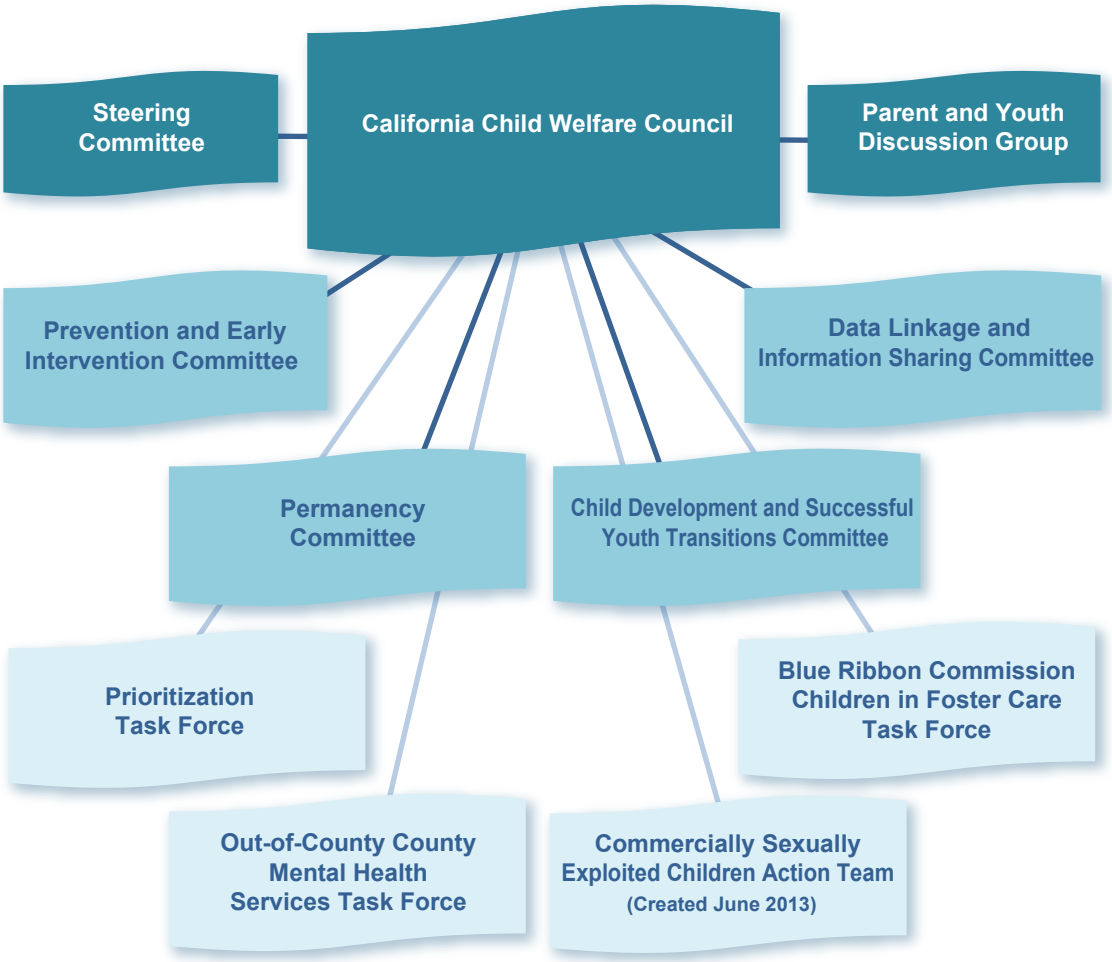
Discussion, Q&A

# The California Child Welfare Council



The Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 (AB 2216, Chapter 384) established the California Child Welfare Council (Council), to serve as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children and youth in the child welfare and foster care systems. Charged with monitoring and reporting the extent to which child welfare and foster care programs and the courts are responsive to the needs of children in their joint care, the Council can issue advisory reports whenever it deems appropriate, and is required to report at least annually to the Governor, the Legislature, the Judicial Council and the public. Co-chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the designee of the Chief Justice of California, the Council has met quarterly since November, 2007.

## Structure of the California Child Welfare Council



# Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles

## VISION

Every California child lives in a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families with the capacity to meet the child's needs and support the child's well-being, and is prepared for the transition into adulthood and becoming a contributing member of society.

## MISSION

We provide an effective, collaborative forum for the three branches of government, foster youth and their families, and key stakeholders to advocate for effective and promising strategies and adequate resources to improve outcomes for children, youth and families involved with or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Collaboration is essential among the three branches of government, foster youth and their families and key stakeholders to achieving improved outcomes for children, youth and families.
2. Accountability for child, youth and family outcomes is shared between federal, state, and local governments and among multiple agencies, the courts, community partners, families, and youth.
3. Engaging families and youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of services, programs, and policies is essential to achieving improved system outcomes.
4. Sharing data and information across governmental jurisdictions, agencies and the courts promotes more informed program planning, development and evaluation. At the local level, it enables the linkage of children, youth and families to appropriate community services and supports.
5. Best and promising practices should be replicated statewide where appropriate and possible.
6. Maximizing and using multiple funding sources flexibly across systems provides resources needed to meet the comprehensive and complex needs of children, youth and their families.
7. Recommendations will be culturally appropriate, strength-based, evidence-informed, and outcomes-driven to ensure that all children, youth and their families are treated fairly and equally without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

# Communications

The Council primarily communicates with the public and members through its website (www.chhs.ca.gov/initiatives/CAChildWelfareCouncil/) and e-mail, in addition to the quarterly Council meetings. Committees and workgroups hold in-person and conference call meetings. All Council, committee and Task Force meetings are open to the public.