

WEBINAR | FEBRUARY 2025

# Virtual Policy Summit

The Path to Racial Equity: Addressing  
Disparities for Transition Age Youth  
in Child Welfare

**ALLIANCE**  
*for* **CHILDREN'S**  
**RIGHTS**



## POLL QUESTION #1:

IN THREE-FIVE WORDS,  
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE  
MOST CRITICAL AND TIMELY  
ISSUE TO ADDRESS HISTORIC  
RACIAL DISPARITIES FOR  
TRANSITION AGE YOUTH IN  
FOSTER CARE?



# POLICY SUMMIT AGENDA

- 10:00 am – 10:10 am **Welcome and Introductions**
- 10:10 am - 10:25 am **Listening and Learning: Lived Experience Expert**
- 10:25 am – 10:35 am **Youth/Systems/Community: Bridging the Gap**
- 10:35 am – 10:55 am **Report Overview**
- 10:55 am – 11:25 am **Breakout Discussions**
- 11:25 am – 11:35 am **Feedback**
- 11:35 am – 11:45 am **Policy Recommendations: Moving Toward Holistic Reform**

# OVERVIEW



COMBATING IMPACTS OF  
SYSTEMIC DISPARITIES AND  
DISPROPORTIONALITIES



FOSTERING STABILITY



EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

---

““ I am trying to undo the traumas caused by being in the system. I lacked authentic support and due to this I don't have much confidence in those that attempt to support me on my journey. I am deciphering authentic support versus those that do it for a check. ””

---



# LISTENING AND LEARNING: INSIGHTS FROM A YOUTH WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

KA-LEAH MUCTHISON

FACILITATED BY SARA RUBIN

Jevon Wilkes, Executive Director,  
California Coalition for Youth

# BRIDGING THE GAP

ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





California

# Coalition for Youth


Established in 1982



*Improving and empowering the lives of California's youth; with a focus on youth experiencing homelessness, disconnection, and instability.*







**CA Youth**  
**CrisisLine**  
*We hear you*  
**800-843-5200**

**CALL, TEXT, CHAT** 

*Operated since 1986*



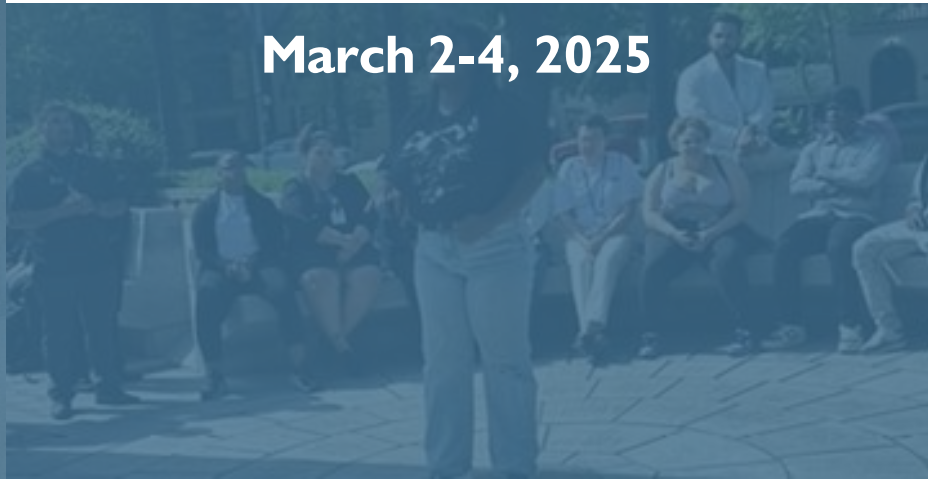
The California Youth Crisis Line is funded and supported by The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). For more information, please visit [www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov).



2  
K  
2  
5

Y E S

YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT  
SUMMIT



March 2-4, 2025





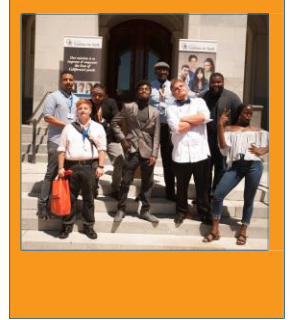
ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





# Youth

Engage | Empower | Elevate



ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





# Systems

Protect | Involve | Evolve

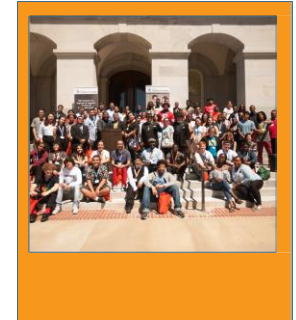
ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





# Community

Learn | Trust | Love

ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS







ALLIANCE  
for CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS





# POLICY AND PRACTICE REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY

# KEY THEMES

- Addressing Systemwide Racial Disproportionalities and Disparities
- Supporting Successful Transitions to Adulthood
- Providing Housing Stability and Preventing Exits to Homelessness
- Accessing Concrete Supports
  - Preventing Food Insecurity
  - Promoting Attaining Educational Goals
  - Ensuring Timely Access to Behavioral Health Services
- Addressing Permanency Disruptions and Permanency Options to Avoid Instability
- Targeting Supports for Expectant and Parenting Youth
- Targeting Supports for Youth Victimized by Commercial Sexual Exploitation



---

# ADDRESSING SYSTEMWIDE RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITIES AND DISPARITIES

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY



# ADDRESSING SYSTEMWIDE RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITIES AND DISPARITIES

- 1. Develop recruitment and retention supports** to help ensure the child welfare workforce understands the child welfare population and have insight from lived experience
- 2. Create and disseminate training and other supports for those with lived experience working with children and youth** in and exiting child welfare to assist in addressing relived trauma through their employment

# ADDRESSING SYSTEMWIDE RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITIES AND DISPARITIES

- 3. Encourage counties to utilize the Disproportionality Diagnostic Tool** created by the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators to help counties identify gaps, areas for improvement, and agency strengths that can support equitable representation
- 4. Direct CDSS, with stakeholder input, to improve data collection** related to reports of neglect

# ADDRESSING SYSTEMWIDE RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITIES AND DISPARITIES

- 5. Develop system capacity in CWS-CARES to systematically track the reason a maltreatment report does not meet the criteria for a referral**, to help develop a better understanding of why older youth, including unaccompanied youth, and youth in homeless families have higher rates of reports “evaluated out”
- 6. Develop system capacity in CWS-CARES to collect data on self-petitions for court dependency under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 329 and 331**, as well as the outcomes of those petitions, to provide a better understanding of whether older youth experience relative challenges gaining access to foster care, even if their rate of entry into foster care following substantiation of maltreatment is equivalent to rates for younger youth

# ADDRESSING SYSTEMWIDE RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITIES AND DISPARITIES

- 7. Develop system capacity in CWS-CARES to collect data on whether reports related to maltreatment are self-reported by Transition Age Youth or reported by someone else** to provide insight into whether older and younger youth are treated differently when they self-report maltreatment rather than when it is reported by others
- 8. Monitor outcomes for youth with prior reports of abuse and neglect for safety, permanency, and well being**





# PROVIDING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING EXITS TO HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY

# PROVIDING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING EXITS TO HOMELESSNESS

1. Prevent youth experiencing homelessness while in care by building systems capacity and removing artificial barriers to housing entry
2. Promote a true housing continuum for transition age youth by reimagining housing options



# PROVIDING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING EXITS TO HOMELESSNESS

3. Maximize Access to and use of FYI housing vouchers
4. Prevent involuntary exits from THP-NMD programs due to NMD's inability to fulfill program requirements.
5. Ensure continuity of support and prevent instability, particularly in times of transition, by uncoupling receipt of stipends (including Infant Supplement and clothing allowances) and AFDC-FC monthly payments (also known as the foster care payments) from placement.

# PROVIDING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING EXITS TO HOMELESSNESS

- 6. Provide training, technical assistance and resources/information to Family Urgent Response System statewide hotline staff to address calls from current and former foster youth related to housing instability and homelessness**
- 7. Encourage development, in partnership with youth, of a comprehensive housing plan** through the required development and updating of their Transitional Independent Living Plan to address changing needs as they age and progress in achieving their goals and ensuring the Plan is reflective of practical and specific goals

# PROVIDING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING EXITS TO HOMELESSNESS

- 8. Ensure counties provide on demand access to housing and other supportive services.**
- 9. Provide training and technical assistance to counties, housing providers and housing navigators** to prevent exclusionary or discriminatory practices from destabilizing housing security and to promote successful housing transitions.

---

PREVENTING PERMANENCY  
DISRUPTIONS AND  
SUPPORTING PERMANENCY  
OPTIONS TO AVOID  
INSTABILITY

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY



# PREVENTING PERMANENCY DISRUPTIONS

- 1. Identify and consider a range of permanency options, including relational permanency, for transition age youth to support transitions**
- 2. Amend WIC section 388.1 to allow former foster youth between ages 18 and 21 whose adoption or guardianship disrupts to petition the court to re-enter EFC without having to first ensure that funding has terminated**



# BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY





POLL QUESTION #2:

WHAT RESONATED MOST  
FOR YOU IN THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS?

A young man and woman are in a library, looking at a book together. The man is on the left, wearing a green shirt and a backpack, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt. They are both looking at an open book held by the man. The background is filled with bookshelves and books, creating a studious atmosphere. The image has a blue tint.

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: MOVING TOWARD HOLISTIC REFORM

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY



# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: MOVING TOWARD HOLISTIC REFORM

SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY

[ACR-2024PolicySummit-STJ.pdf](#)  
([allianceforchildrensrights.org](http://allianceforchildrensrights.org))

# ALLIANCE *for* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

*Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials, will be posted at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/>*

STAY CONNECTED

[allianceforchildrensrights.org](https://allianceforchildrensrights.org)



THANK  
YOU



@allianceforchildrensrights