WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
10:00 TO 11:15 A.M.

WHAT DID WE MISS?
A POLICY AGENDA TO IMPROVE FOSTER CARE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Organized by the John Burton Foundation, the Children’s Law Center, National Center for Youth Law and the Children’s Advocacy Institute
Information to Participate

Call-in number is 1 (213) 929-4212 and access code is 298-189-729.

Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.thpplus.org

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”
What Did We Miss?

Higher Education

- How does the foster care system help foster youth reach and succeed in college?

Pregnancy Prevention & Reproductive Health

- How does foster care support this new, older population in their sexual health and family decision-making?

Young Families

- How does foster care serve young families differently than it serves non-parents?
Growth in the Number of NMDs

Implementation of extended foster care

300% growth

Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project
Agenda

- **Topic 1: Higher Education**
  - Chafee Education and Training Voucher
    - Jackie Wong, National Center for Youth Law
    - Karen Micalizio, Butte College
    - Melanie Delgado, Children’s Advocacy Institute
  - Priority Registration
    - Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation

- **Topic 2: Pregnancy Prevention and Reproductive Health**
  - Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation

- **Topic 3: Young Families in Foster Care**
  - Jessica Rodriguez, First Place for Youth
Topic 1:

Higher Education
We Know Foster Youth Want to Go to College

80 percent of the youth reported wanting to earn a college degree or higher

73% expected that they would earn a college degree or higher.

Source: Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Foster Youth at Age 17 (2014)
Reality Doesn’t Match These Aspirations

In California, foster youth are less likely that same-age peers to:

- Enroll within 12 months of high school
  - 56% vs. 64% of the same-age non-foster youth

- Attend full-time
  - 34% vs. 46% of the same-age non-foster youth.

- Earn a 2.0 or higher
  - 49% vs. 71% of the same-age non-foster youth.

- Earn an AA or higher by age 26:
  - 8.2% vs. 46.1% of the same-age non-foster youth.

Source: Charting the Course (2015); Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Function of Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 26 (2011)
College Affordability is a Key Factor

**9-Month Budget (Full-time for Two Semesters)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CCC</th>
<th>CSU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Fees/Tuition</td>
<td>$1,174</td>
<td>$6,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/Supp</td>
<td>$1,764</td>
<td>$1,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room/Board Off Campus</td>
<td>$11,970</td>
<td>$13,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans</td>
<td>$1,270</td>
<td>$1,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Personal</td>
<td>$2,898</td>
<td>$1,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,076</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,648</strong></td>
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History of the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

- Established in 2002 through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
- 50% federally-funded-50% State General Fund
- Funding has remained flat since 2002
- A program of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) as a financial aid program
More about the Chafee ETV

- Eligible if you were in foster care on or after age 16 and are under age 24.
- Maximum grant: $5,000/average award amount $3,200
- May be used for college or vocational education
- Not pro-rated based on enrollment
- Only dedicated source of financial aid for foster youth
Receipt of Chafee Improves Academic Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012-13 Academic Year</th>
<th>Students who Receive Chafee</th>
<th>Students who do not Receive Chafee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 2.0 GPA</td>
<td>54.23%</td>
<td>48.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistence</td>
<td>50.48%</td>
<td>34.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Rate</td>
<td>54.40%</td>
<td>51.83%</td>
</tr>
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Source: Cal Pass Plus

48% increase
CSAC Has Made Recent Improvements to Chafee

Automation of grant distribution

Elimination of the Need Assessment Report (NAR)

Both will result in more timely distribution of funds
While Highly Effective, Limited Funding Prevents Eligible Students from Receiving It

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total students eligible</td>
<td>4,609</td>
<td>4,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Awards</td>
<td>3,494</td>
<td>3,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total eligible, not awarded</td>
<td>1,115</td>
<td>1,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent eligible, not awarded</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
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Source: California Student Aid Commission
Campus Perspective

- There are approximately 350 current and former foster youth enrolled at Butte College each semester. Over 150 of them receive some type of service or benefit from the program.

- Program space
  - Designated space for studying and social interaction
  - Two private offices for staff

- The Chafee is a promise that students can understand; it has a profound impact before students even finish high school. Once in college, it provides a sense of security they have never known.
Assembly Bill 2506- Thurmond

- Entitle all students to receive a Chafee grant who apply by specific date
  - Why a set date?
  - What does “entitle” mean?

- Applicants who apply after this date would be eligible for remaining funds
Assembly Bill 2506- Thurmond

- Would require campuses where 40% or more of the students receive financial aid to meet minimum requirements:
  - No higher than a 15.5% cohort loan default rate
  - 30% graduation rate

- Policy has been in place with Cal Grant since 2013
Once they Arrive on Campus, Foster Youth Don’t Persist

In California, foster youth are less likely that same-age peers to:

- 85% less like to complete 30 more units any time during college
- 65% less likely to enroll in three consecutive terms

Source: Charting the Course (2015)
Priority Registration is an Important Tool for Persistence

- Established in 2011, through passage of AB 194 (Beall)

- Enables students to register for courses before the larger student population
  - Secure required courses
  - Shorten the time to degree completion
  - Reduce financial aid utilization
  - Better course selection

- 7,879 foster youth utilized priority registration in the 2014-15 academic year

Source: November 2015 survey of CCs, CSUs and UCs conducted by the John Burton Foundation
Priority Registration: Senate Bill 906 (Beall)

1. Removes January 1, 2017 sunset in AB 194
   - Foster youth, EOPS and DSPS

2. Changes the eligibility criteria for priority registration for foster youth to align with existing programs serving foster youth in community college.
   - *Current eligibility*: in foster care on or after their 18th birthday and up to 24
   - *New eligibility*: in foster care on or after their 16th birthday and up to age 26
Topic 2:

Pregnancy Prevention & Reproductive Health
Foster Youth Experience High Rates of Pregnancy

At age 17, 26% of girls in foster care had been pregnant
- 69.7% once
- 16.8% twice
- 3.1% three times
- 2.1% four plus times
- 8.3% unreported

As compared with 2.1% of girls aged 15 to 19 in California

Source: Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Foster Youth at Age 17 (2014); Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Counties Have Been Piloting Solutions...

- Butte
- Napa
- Santa Clara
- San Luis Obispo
- Los Angeles
- Orange
...To Prevent First and Repeat Pregnancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training for Caregivers and Social Workers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicating with Youth about Sexual Health and HIV Education and Prevention (Illinois)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Health Conversations (LA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraception and sexual health training with Planned Parenthood</td>
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<tr>
<th>Training for Youth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Making Proud Choices*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Outreach Program* (TOP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRIVE*</td>
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<tr>
<td>¡Cuídate!*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective!*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's Your Game: Keep it Real (IYG)*</td>
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<th>Policies &amp; Procedures Development</th>
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<td>Instructions that specify the role of social workers and others in ensuring all youth age 12 and over have access to reproductive health services, including pregnancy prevention.</td>
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* Evidence-based
Budget Proposal Would Provide Public Support

Strategies Proven to Reduce Unwanted Pregnancy in Foster Youth

- Training for social workers, probation officers and caregivers
- Training for youth
- Ensuring youth have access to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services
- Ensuring reproductive rights of youth in foster care, including relevant minor consent and confidentiality laws

Policies and Procedures to Ensure Consistency, Quality and Safety
Topic 3: Young Families
Since AB 12, We Have Learned Many NMDs will Give Birth by Age 21

1 in 3 girls in foster care who gave birth before they turned 18 will have at least one more teen birth

Ermily Putnam Hornstein, USC, *Cumulative Teen Birth Rates among Girls in Foster Care at Age 17* (2013)
Without a Higher Infant Supplement, Those Children Will be Raised in Poverty

Federal Poverty Line: $15,930

- Infant Supplement: $411
- Basic Rate: $859

Total: $15,240 per year
Children Raised in Poverty Suffer Multiple Negative Outcomes

How Does Poverty Effect Children?

- Poor physical health (asthma, low birth weight)
- Low School Achievement
- Early Childbearing
- Child Maltreatment
- Emotional and Behavioral Problems
- Cognitive Delays

Very strong effect: ratio 3+
Strong effect: ratio 1.5 to 2.9
Measurable effect: ratio 1.0 to 1.49

Source: Duncan and Brooks, Consequences of Growing Up Poor (1999)
First Place for Youth

Of 309 youth served by First Place, 99 are parenting foster youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One-Time Costs</th>
<th>Ongoing Costs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crib</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car seat</td>
<td>Baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$240</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR/First Aid Training</td>
<td>Baby clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby proofing</td>
<td>Baby toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroller</td>
<td>Bibs/burp cloths</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>High chair</td>
<td>Bottles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other toiletries</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$7,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incremental Rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5,400</td>
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**Total: $850**

**Annual Total: $16,776**
SB 1838 Would Move Young Families in Foster Care Above the Poverty Line

Federal Poverty Line: $15,930

NOT IN POVERTY
- Infant Supplement: $686
- Basic Rate: $859
- Total: $15,240 per year

IN POVERTY
- Infant Supplement: $411
- Basic Rate: $859
- Total: $15,240 per year

Poverty Line: $15,930
History of the Infant Supplement

- First established in federal law in 1989 (Social Security Action Section 475 (4)(B))
  - Is federally-reimbursable at 50%
- Established in California in 1989 through Senate Bill 510
- Originally set at $326 per month and is currently $411
- For group homes, it was set is $708 and is not $890 per month
- Has been raised periodically, but not kept pace with inflation
Provisions of AB 1838 (Ting)

1. Increase infant supplement from current level to the basic rate
   - Birth to 4: $686
   - Aged 5 to 8: $744

2. Receipt of infant supplement six months prior to the due date
   - promote earlier receipt of prenatal care and other services
   - Provide financial assistance to prepare for the birth of the child

3. Develop new infant supplement for Group Homes and THP+FC
Legislative and Budget Process

3/10: Senate Budget Hearing
3/10: Assembly Budget Hearing
6/3: Deadline for bill to move to 2nd house (Senate)
7/1: Deadline to pass budget
8/31: Deadline for each house to pass bills
9/30: Deadline for Governor to sign bills
How You Can Help

- Submit support letters
  - AB 2506 (Thurmond)- Chafee ETV
  - AB 1838 (Ting)- Infant Supplement
  - SB 906 (Beall)- Priority Registration

- Give public testimony at upcoming hearing
  - Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1: April 6th
  - Assembly Human Services: April 12th

- Contact your Senator and Assembly Member and ask them to support

Sample support letters available at [www.johnburtonfoundation.org](http://www.johnburtonfoundation.org) under Resources
Questions and Comments

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”